

Hartman: Soviets serious on talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arthur Hartman, the U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, said Tuesday he believed the Soviets were seriously interested in moving ahead with nuclear arms control negotiations. "Every indication we get, privately and publicly, is that they want to have serious talks with this administration," said Mr. Hartman, interviewed from Moscow on the NBC-TV network's "Today" programme, when asked whether he was optimistic about the next round of U.S.-Soviet talks set to convene Jan. 15. "They do not want to wait into another administration, which may be three years, four years from now... but they also have a propaganda track that they have been running, and I'm afraid they're not going to stop that for a couple of months now. We'll just have to see when they get back to some really serious negotiations," Mr. Hartman said. Mr. Hartman, who is about to end his tour as ambassador to Moscow and retire from the foreign service, was asked whether he has been frustrated with the U.S. government's handling of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Volume 12 Number 3368

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7, 1987, JUMADI AL AWWAL 7, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Prime minister visits army HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Tuesday called at the General Army Headquarters in Amman where he met Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The meeting was attended by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb and Dr. Daoud Hannania, director of the Royal Medical Services.

Pharmacists charged

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry has referred the proprietors of a number of pharmacies in Amman and Irbid to a disciplinary council for violating ministry regulations concerning the sale of the antibiotics. The ministry had ruled that no antibiotic drugs should be dispensed by drug stores without a doctor's prescription and warned that measures would be taken against violators in cooperation with the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA). According to the Health Ministry, the violators would be disciplined by the JPA and if the latter failed to do so the violators would be referred to court.

Saudis deny Cairo report

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia on Tuesday denied reports from Cairo that a Saudi military delegation was in Egypt for talks on military cooperation. "What was reported was completely baseless," the defence ministry said in a statement read over Riyadh Radio. Egypt's Middle East News Agency said on Sunday that a Saudi military delegation led by an adviser to Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz had arrived in Cairo for talks on military cooperation with Egyptian officials.

Moscow 'not opposed' to summit in 1987

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union said Tuesday it did not oppose a possible summit meeting between Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan this year, provided it produced positive results. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news briefing: "We are not against a meeting with President Reagan. We are for the solving of disarmament problems and the meeting being a constructive one which produces results. There is no change in our position."

Rebels say Iranian prison chief killed

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iranian opposition group said Tuesday it had killed a prison director in Iran's northeastern Khorasan province in revenge for the execution of a number of political prisoners. The Baghdad headquarters of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq movement opposed to the Tehran government said in a statement the dead man, Hossein Ghane-Golian, had headed a prison in Mashhad and had been in charge of the intelligence section of the Pasdaran (guards) corps in the province since 1981.

Lower House passes laws on contractors, youth and land appropriation

JCA membership made mandatory for all contracting firms in Jordan

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Tuesday endorsed four draft laws governing contractors, youth care, the Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) and appropriation of land.

In addition to passing these laws, the almost three-hour House session also referred a number of draft laws and suggestions made by some deputies to the various specialised committees of the House.

The 1986 draft law on contractors, which was endorsed by the House on Tuesday, boosted the country's ailing construction sector and granted the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA)

contracts to any company which is not a member of the JCA. The law, which was passed by a unanimous vote, also consolidated an earlier Cabinet decision which instructed all public sector organisations to give priority for local contracting companies in awarding projects.

Furthermore, and under the new draft law, foreign contracting companies will only be allowed to operate in Jordan if they adhere to the following articles:

- They should be registered with the official contracting departments in their country of origin;
- They should be registered at the Jordanian Ministry of Trade and Industry;
- They should possess all financial, technical and expertise

(Continued on page 3)

PSP and SSNP militiamen wage fierce battle in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Explosions rocked west Beirut on Tuesday as leftist militias battled with machine-guns and grenades, killing at least three people, police said.

Fighting erupted before dawn between the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party (SSNP) after gunmen in a speeding car fired on a PSP office.

Police said at least three people were killed and several were injured in the violence, which subsided at noon.

A correspondent who toured the battle zone in the Ras Beirut district said the streets were littered with broken glass, dozens of cars were burned out or riddled with bullets and two buildings had been damaged by fire.

Most militiamen had withdrawn from combat positions and dazed civilians were emerging from basements to inspect damage.

At an SSNP centre crowded with fighters in battle gear, a militia official accused the PSP of

kidnapping a senior SSNP military commander and eight other SSNP members Monday night.

The official, who declined to be named, said the PSP had attacked SSNP positions in a bid to dominate Ras Beirut.

Outside the PSP's sea-front Jal Al Bahr barracks, militiamen wearing masks or red headbands searched passing cars.

A PSP official denied that SSNP men had been abducted. He said the clash was "an isolated incident with our comrades in the SSNP."

Both sides said none of their fighters had been killed.

The PSP issued a statement saying the Shi'ite Amal militia was not involved in the deaths of two PSP fighters ambushed in an Amal-controlled district last Saturday.

"The PSP has discovered the party responsible and its aims — mainly to create havoc and tension in the area as well as problems between parties, specifically Amal and the PSP," the statement said. It did not say who was behind the

ambush.

Tension rose in Beirut after the PSP and Amal militias closed the coast road to South Lebanon for two days running to forestall any attempt to take vengeance for the killings.

In the PSP-SSNP battle, heavy grenade blasts shook the deserted Beirut thoroughfare as both sides traded hit-and-run assaults on each other's centres in the normally busy Hamra. The smell of cordite swept through the city.

Ambulances raced in and out of the embattled district with sirens wailing. Police said at least three combatants were killed and 11 wounded.

Senior officials of the two parties met with Syrian military observers and agreed on a truce. Joint PSP and SSNP patrols then toured the embattled areas, blaring orders through bullhorns for a ceasefire as of midday. The guns fell silent afterwards.

After a day of violence in the

(Continued on page 4)

Tests show Reagan tissue is benign

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House said Tuesday that President Ronald Reagan was recovering smoothly from prostate surgery and that final laboratory tests confirmed that urinary tract tissue removed on Monday was benign.

"The president is recovering very well from the surgical procedure of yesterday and he is showing no evidence of infection, the doctors tell me," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said.

"The final results of the TUR (transurethral resection) are in and they show the tissue to be benign," he added.

Speakes said the president had read the morning papers and had watched some television Tuesday. Mr. Reagan planned to meet with his new national security adviser, Frank Carlucci, and with Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan later in the day, the spokesman added.

Mr. Reagan, who turns 76 next month and is the oldest president in U.S. history, underwent hour-long surgery on Monday to relieve discomfort caused by an enlarged prostate gland. At that time, doctors said a preliminary study of the tissue showed no signs of cancer.

The president was scheduled to undergo a final medical procedure late Tuesday when doctors perform a cat scan X-ray of his abdomen to check for a possible spread of the colon cancer for which he underwent surgery in July 1985.

Mr. Reagan is expected to leave hospital later this week, but

(Continued on page 4)

Senators reject Reagan plea to release Iran report

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee has rejected President Ronald Reagan's plea to release the results of a preliminary probe into the Iran arms affair, calling such a move premature and a mistake.

"We voted not to release the report," Senator David Boren, an Oklahoma Democrat, told reporters after a two-hour, closed-door meeting of the panel late Monday.

Mr. Boren, who took over the chairmanship of the panel when the new Democratic-led Senate opened Tuesday, and other committee members declined to specify the vote. But Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas said it was 7-6.

"We'd be doing a disservice to the president and everyone concerned if we issued a report that lacked credibility because it was not complete... and because it had so many gaps in it from witnesses who were not able to receive testimony from," Mr. Boren said.

The move came just hours after White House spokesman Larry Speakes, reiterating a plea Mr. Reagan made last month, urged the panel to make public the declassified, 150-page report produced from three weeks of preliminary secret hearings.

"It is the most complete account thus far of how the president's policy toward Iran was carried out and the most complete compilation available of facts about the alleged diversion of funds to anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua," Speakes told reporters.

Revelations early in November

of the clandestine sale of U.S. arms to Iran, apparently to gain the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian extremists in Lebanon, exploded into a full-scale scandal three weeks later when the White House revealed that proceeds from the sales had been diverted to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan contra rebels.

"It really is jumping the gun and would not be in the interests of the American people because (they) would be left with the impression of a picture that is not yet complete," said Sen. Robert Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat who is expected to be elected majority leader in the 100th Congress.

The dispute over the report flared as the new Congress, elected in November, convened and prepared to organise the special house and Senate committees that will take over legislative inquiries into the Iran scandal.

Leading Republican lawmakers have expressed concern about the Democrats' plan to give the committees until Oct. 30 to complete their work, saying that would unnecessarily prolong the current political crisis.

Spokesman Larry Speakes said the White House hoped the committees would finish their investigations as quickly as possible.

Asked how broad a mandate the panels should have, he replied: "We want them to go start to finish, top to bottom, narrow and wide, up and down... in order to find out everything they need to know and the American people need to know about the Iranian-contra affair."

Rifai: 'Camps war' panel will visit Syria, Lebanon

AMMAN (R) — An Arab League committee will visit Syria and Lebanon soon to try to bring Lebanon's "camps war" to an end, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said Tuesday.

Following the prime minister's statement to the Lower House of Parliament, House Speaker Akel Al Fayed overruled a motion that a cable should be sent to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, asking him to intervene in the fighting between Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen and Palestinian fighters at the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

Mr. Rifai said both Syria and Lebanon had agreed to receive

the seven-member committee, which was forced at an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis last month.

"The committee will visit Damascus in the next few days and will later travel to Beirut. I ask you to consider this and not to resort to sending cables at this critical time when official Arab contacts are taking place," he said.

Reports from Tunis said the committee, led by Algeria, will meet on Jan. 14 to review its peace mission.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri attended the committee meetings in Tunis. Jordan is a member of the panel.

All GCC states to attend Islamic summit in Kuwait

Iran formally requests change of venue

RIYADH (Agencies) — All members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will attend the Islamic summit due to open in Kuwait on Jan. 26, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) minister of state for foreign affairs said Tuesday.

Rashid Al Abdullah, speaking to reporters after a meeting of foreign ministers from the six-member council, said: "All GCC states will attend the summit in Kuwait as scheduled."

The GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Mr. Abdullah did not spell out whether heads of state of the GCC countries would attend but said: "We hope Muslim countries will be represented at a level which corresponds with work for Muslim solidarity. We hope all will attend."

The Riyadh meeting followed calls for the summit of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to be

postponed or the venue changed. Iran formally requested on Tuesday that it should be moved away from Kuwait.

The talks were called to work out a joint GCC policy for the summit and to review efforts by Kuwait to convene it on time.

The impromptu two-day meeting in Riyadh was called a day earlier amid growing speculation that the fifth OIC summit would be postponed mainly because of Iran's refusal to be represented by a high-ranking delegation because it considers Kuwait biased towards Iraq.

The key item on the summit agenda is means of arranging for a peace settlement between Iran and Iraq.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister on Monday however expressed confidence that the summit would begin as scheduled on Jan. 26 and described the GCC foreign ministers' gathering as only a "routine" meeting.

He said Bahrain called for the

House reaffirms Jamal Obeidat's election victory

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament on Tuesday reaffirmed the election victory of Jamal Obeidat, a member of the Irbid constituency with a 22,366 against Dr. Nuseir's 10,335.

The six-member committee, chaired by Deputy Suleiman Al Qudrah, held three rounds of discussions and ruled in the conclusion of its six-page report that the "election was sound and there was no error in the counting of the votes."

Prior to the endorsement of the committee's rule in favour of Mr. Obeidat, a heated debate broke out among Deputies Yusef Al Aham, Ahmad Al Kofahi and Abdullah Al Akalich on the one hand and Mr. Qudrah and House Speaker Akel Al Fayed on the other.

The prime minister, Mr. Zaid Rifai, categorically told Deputy

(Continued on page 4)

Murphy arrives

By Saad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived in Amman on Tuesday saying that his talks here were expected to focus on means to advance the stalled Middle East peace process and American-Jordanian relations.

Talking to reporters upon arrival, Mr. Murphy, the State Department official in charge of Middle East and Near East affairs, said he expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein and meet government officials "to assess the prospects for peace now and come back with a better idea on what I hope the U.S. could provide to advance the peace process."

Mr. Murphy acknowledged that he expected the "issue of Iran" to figure in his talks here. He was referring to the controversy surrounding the secret American arms sales to Iran in return for release of American hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Tehran groups.

U.S. relations with and credibility in the Arab World have been severely damaged with the revelations in early November that Washington had sent arms to Iran despite the proclaimed American neutrality in the six-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

The King has condemned the U.S.-Iran deal as "an insult to all Arabs" and "sad and a big disappointment."

Mr. Murphy said Tuesday: "I'll expect to discuss the issue of Iran, but the principal purpose I am

(Continued on page 4)

Mubarak pledges to settle Jordan-PLO differences

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak has pledged to try to reconcile differences between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to prepare for Middle East peace talks through an international conference.

"We are keen to resume a dialogue between Jordan and the PLO to allow Egypt continue efforts towards peace," he told reporters Monday.

The PLO and Jordan have been in disagreement since last February over how to approach the peace issue.

The PLO refuses to recognise U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 calling for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories in exchange for security guarantees because it says they imply recognition of Israel.

"The PLO must find a suitable formula to recognise the two resolutions to allow it attend the peace talks," Mr. Mubarak said. In September, Mr. Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres agreed to make 1987 a year of negotiations and set up a committee to prepare for an international Middle East peace conference.

Iraq warns against attempts to prolong Gulf war

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein of Iraq warned on Tuesday against attempts to prolong the Iran-Iraq war and reiterated his conditions for a peaceful end to the conflict.

"Iraq calls for a just, honourable and durable peace based on the five principles it announced in 1986 and will never accept any attempt which pretends peace to justify the attempts of suspicious Tehran rulers to prolong the war," he said in a national address.

"We have no other alternative... but to strongly warn the champions of such attempts for the last time that Iraq will be forced to expose them and their suspicious goals, if they repeat such attempts."

President Hussein, in a speech marking the 67th anniversary of the Iraqi army, did not say who was responsible for the attempts to prolong the war.

But he added: "We hear statements, proposals and schemes... to please the evil regime of Iran, disguised under the pretext of encouraging the attempts of the Iranian regime to deal with certain organisations, at this time when the Islamic summit is getting close to convene."

"Iraq has fought six and a half years to defend its sovereignty, values and rights, until the Iranian rulers retreat from their evil policy and sick dreams and accept to live free and in peace inside the borders of their country."

Reiterating Iraq's earlier positions, he called on Iran to withdraw to its internationally recognised borders.

Attack on U.S. 'copter in Gulf raises new concern

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A mystery missile attack on a U.S. helicopter in the Gulf has raised the possibility that vulnerable merchant shipping could be armageddon against frequent attacks by Iran and Iraq.

The Pentagon said Monday night that an unidentified merchant ship had fired a missile at a U.S. navy helicopter at 1230 GMT on Monday but missed by about 500 metres.

Shipping sources in the region said the U.S. destroyer O'Bannon, from where the SH-2 lamps helicopter had been launched, was on Tuesday searching the United Arab Emirates (UAE) coastline for the ship that launched the missile.

U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain

Shevardnadze calls on all Afghans to honour truce

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has called on rebels in Afghanistan to respect a ceasefire offered by Afghan leader Najibullah, the official news agency TASS reported Monday from Kabul.

Speaking at a reception in Kabul Monday night, Mr. Shevardnadze said Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev sent him to Afghanistan to support the peace drive launched by Mr. Najibullah last week in hopes of bringing Soviet troops home after eight years of war.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who arrived in Kabul on Monday with senior Kremlin foreign policy adviser Anatoly Dobrynin, is the first member of the ruling Soviet politburo to travel to Afghanistan, in many years, Western diplomats in Moscow said.

They said his presence in the Afghan capital showed the degree of Soviet interest in a speedy Afghan settlement.

In a speech to an extraordinary meeting of the Afghan ruling party's Central Committee last week, Mr. Najibullah announced that government forces will begin

observing a ceasefire on Jan. 15. He asked that rebel groups fighting the Soviet-backed government also halt hostilities so negotiations can proceed to end the war.

Large groups of Afghan rebels opposed to the Kabul government have been at war with Afghan troops since April 1978, when a constitutional monarchy was deposed and replaced with a socialist form of government.

Soviet troops entered the war in December 1979 and an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers remain in Afghanistan.

"The ceasefire proposal has been a noble and prescient gesture and we hope that it will be supported by all forces opposing each other in Afghanistan," Mr. Shevardnadze said during his speech.

"A ceasefire is an indispensable prerequisite condition for the rumble of guns to give way to the voice of reason and for the warring sides to get together at a common threshold of accord and be able to discuss a peaceful future of their country without interference," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

They said his presence in the Afghan capital showed the degree of Soviet interest in a speedy Afghan settlement.

In a speech to an extraordinary meeting of the Afghan ruling party's Central Committee last week, Mr. Najibullah announced that government forces will begin

observing a ceasefire on Jan. 15. He asked that rebel groups fighting the Soviet-backed government also halt hostilities so negotiations can proceed to end the war.

Large groups of Afghan rebels opposed to the Kabul government have been at war with Afghan troops since April 1978, when a constitutional monarchy was deposed and replaced with a socialist form of government.

Soviet troops entered the war in December 1979 and an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers remain in Afghanistan.

"The ceasefire proposal has been a noble and prescient gesture and we hope that it will be supported by all forces opposing each other in Afghanistan," Mr. Shevardnadze said during his speech.

"A ceasefire is an indispensable prerequisite condition for the rumble of guns to give way to the voice of reason and for the warring sides to get together at a common threshold of accord and be able to discuss a peaceful future of their country without interference," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

They said his presence in the Afghan capital showed the degree of Soviet interest in a speedy Afghan settlement.

In a speech to an extraordinary meeting of the Afghan ruling party's Central Committee last week, Mr. Najibullah announced that government forces will begin

observing a ceasefire on Jan. 15. He asked that rebel groups fighting the Soviet-backed government also halt hostilities so negotiations can proceed to end the war.

Large groups of Afghan rebels opposed to the Kabul government have been at war with Afghan troops since April 1978, when a constitutional monarchy was deposed and replaced with a socialist form of government.

Soviet troops entered the war in December 1979 and an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers remain in Afghanistan.

"The ceasefire proposal has been a noble and prescient gesture and we hope that it will be supported by all forces opposing each other in Afghanistan," Mr. Shevardnadze said during his speech.

"A ceasefire is an indispensable prerequisite condition for the rumble of guns to give way to the voice of reason and for the warring sides to get together at a common threshold of accord and be able to discuss a peaceful future of their country without interference," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

They said his presence in the Afghan capital showed the degree of Soviet interest in a speedy Afghan settlement.

In a speech to an extraordinary meeting of the Afghan ruling party's Central Committee last week, Mr. Najibullah announced that government forces will begin

observing a ceasefire on Jan. 15. He asked that rebel groups fighting the Soviet-backed government also halt hostilities so negotiations can proceed to end the war.

Large groups of Afghan rebels opposed to the Kabul government have been at war with Afghan troops since April 1978, when a constitutional monarchy was deposed and replaced with a socialist form of government.

Soviet troops entered the war in December 1979 and an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers remain in Afghanistan.

"The ceasefire proposal has been a noble and prescient gesture and we hope that it will be supported by all forces opposing each other in Afghanistan," Mr. Shevardnadze said during his speech.

"A ceasefire is an indispensable prerequisite condition for the rumble of guns to give way to the voice of reason and for the warring sides to get together at a common threshold of accord and be able to discuss a peaceful future of their country without interference," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

They said his presence in the Afghan capital showed the degree of Soviet interest in a speedy Afghan settlement.

In a speech to an extraordinary meeting of the Afghan ruling party's Central Committee last week, Mr. Najibullah announced that government forces will begin

observing a ceasefire on Jan. 15. He asked that rebel groups fighting the Soviet-backed government also halt hostilities so negotiations can proceed to end the war.

Large groups of Afghan rebels opposed to the Kabul government have been at war with Afghan troops since April 1978, when a constitutional monarchy was deposed and replaced with a socialist form of government.

Soviet troops entered the war in December 1979 and an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers remain in Afghanistan.

"The ceasefire proposal has been a noble and prescient gesture and we hope that it will be supported by all forces opposing each other in Afghanistan," Mr. Shevardnadze said during his speech.

"A ceasefire is an indispensable prerequisite condition for the rumble of guns to give way to the voice of reason and for the warring sides to get together at a common threshold of accord and be able to discuss a peaceful future of their country without interference," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

They said his presence in the Afghan capital showed the degree of Soviet interest in a speedy Afghan settlement.

In a speech to an extraordinary meeting of the Afghan ruling party's Central Committee last week, Mr. Najibullah announced that government forces will begin

observing a ceasefire on Jan. 15. He asked that rebel groups fighting the Soviet-backed government also halt hostilities so negotiations can proceed to end the war.

Large groups of Afghan rebels opposed to the Kabul government have been at war with Afghan troops since April 1978, when a constitutional monarchy was deposed and replaced with a socialist form of government.

Soviet troops entered the war in December 1979 and an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers remain in Afghanistan.

"The ceasefire proposal has been a noble and prescient gesture and we hope that it will be supported by all forces opposing each other in Afghanistan," Mr. Shevardnadze said during his speech.

"A ceasefire is an indispensable prerequisite condition for the rumble of guns to give way to the voice of reason and for the warring sides to get together at a common threshold of accord and be able to discuss a peaceful future of their country without interference," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

They said his presence in the Afghan capital showed the degree of Soviet interest in a speedy Afghan settlement.

In a speech to an extraordinary meeting of the Afghan ruling party's Central Committee last week, Mr. Najibullah announced that government forces will begin

observing a ceasefire on Jan. 15. He asked that rebel groups fighting the

Libyan prisoners of war stoned by angry Chadians during rally

N'DJAMENA (R) — Angry demonstrators pelted Libyan prisoners of war with rocks and sticks Tuesday when they were paraded before a frenzied anti-Libyan rally in the Chad capital.

The 22 Libyans, said to have been taken when government troops captured a Libyan garrison at Fada, northern Chad, last week, were driven through the Chadian capital in a sand-coloured military lorry at the climax of the morning-long rally attended by tens of thousands of people.

Demonstrators chanting anti-Libyan slogans and waving clenched fists, surged towards the open truck. They flung rocks, sticks and other projectiles at the covering prisoners, many of them bandaged or bleeding from war wounds.

The Libyans, unkempt and unshaven in green battle fatigues, were earlier paraded amid loud cheering in front of a podium seating officials and diplomats.

The rally was held as the government said violent clashes

broke out in the desert north Sunday between its forces and Libyan troops.

Tuesday's rally, in the dust-swept Place de l'Indépendance square in the centre of N'Djamena, was organised to celebrate Chad's reported victory last week over Libyan forces in the north and muster support for a government offensive to unite Chad.

The government of President Hissène Habré says its troops overran the Libyan garrison at Fada, a strategic oasis in the north east, and the north western outpost of Zouar.

A military spokesman told Tuesday's rally that fighting was continuing in the north, saying government forces clashed with Libyan troops Monday between the northern outpost of Bardai

and Aouzou, in the disputed Aouzou Strip dividing Chad and Libya.

There was no independent confirmation of the fighting and it was the first time Mr. Habré's men have been reported so far to the north of the vast, land-locked central African nation.

Official Chadian radio later announced that Libyan troops had suffered losses and been routed in the fighting at Bardai and Aouzou.

The anti-Libyan demonstration was marked by angry appeals to France and other allies of Chad's pro-Western government to take reprisals against Libya for an airstrike on Sunday on two towns south of the "red line" dividing Chad into government and Libyan-controlled areas.

France has a force of about 1,200 men, Jaguar fighter-bombers and an air defence system in its former colony. It has always promised to defend the south while refusing to

join Mr. Habré's men in a northwards drive.

Banners held up before the podium, decked with pictures of Mr. Habré, appealed for help to recapture the north of the country and recalled France's debt to Chadian soldiers who served in French units during World War II.

"We call on France to intervene at the side of Chadian National Armed Forces," officials shouted to the cheering crowd, estimated by the radio at over 100,000 people.

Meanwhile France appears reluctant to step up military intervention in Chad despite a Libyan bombing raid into the country's French-occupied zone and the Chad government's demands for more active support.

Officials stayed silent on France's next move after a day of contacts between President François Mitterrand, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and Defence Minister André Giraud.

Vanunu begins hunger strike

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli technician accused of passing atomic secrets to the British press has begun a prison hunger strike to protest at what he said were efforts to break him, the newspaper Haaretz reported Tuesday.

It said Vanunu, 31, told his family: "They give me the food like a dog, isolate me 23 hours a day in a closed room, and try to break me. I don't need their food, so I'm going on a hunger strike."

Vanunu gave his story and pictures to the Sunday Times of London for ideological reasons, his brother Asher said. The story was based on Vanunu's 10 years at a top-secret Israeli nuclear reactor.

Mordechai Vanunu "is no spy but a naive man trying to set the nation straight. In his opinion, our leaders are not trustworthy enough and so he tried something to awaken the Israeli people from their slumber," the brother told Haaretz.

His conscience could no longer bear "all that took place at the atom factory."

Israelis have asked how their highly respected security services could allow Vanunu to work in the nuclear industry despite allegations of his being an activist on behalf of Palestinians.

Vanunu appealed to the supreme court last week to restore his rights to reading material and a portable stereo.

Both were confiscated by his chief warden after Vanunu wrote a message on his palm and flashed it to reporters while being driven to a closed court hearing on Dec. 21.

The message said he left London in September for Rome where he was hijacked to Israel. In November, Israel announced it was holding Vanunu in prison but has refused to say how he was returned to the country.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will be in Rome on Friday and Saturday. A ministry spokesman said he did not know whether Peres would meet Italian leaders, who have demanded an explanation for what they said may have been an illegal abduction from their territory.

Peres, leader of Israel's Labour Party, is to attend a 40th anniversary celebration for Italy's Social-Democratic Party.

Asher quoted his brother as saying: "They give me food like a dog. I'm confined 23 hours a day in a closed cell and they're trying to break me."

Vanunu met Sunday with his elderly parents Shlomo and Mazal for the first time since his arrest.

Neither Asher Vanunu nor Vanunu's lawyer Amnon Zichrony were available for comment. On Monday, Zichrony confirmed the meeting took place.

Whether Vanunu will base his defence on a plea that he acted for ideological reasons is unknown as Zichrony has consistently refused to reveal how he will defend his client.

Shamir vows to give more aid to SLA

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir vowed that Israel would give more aid to its South Lebanese militia ally, which has lost 11 fighters in attacks in the last five days, Israeli newspapers reported Tuesday.

The commander of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) said that help was needed if the militia was to continue to protect Israel's northern border, the Israeli News Agency Iltan reported.

Shamir, speaking in an interview with Israel television's Arabic language programme that was published by Israeli newspapers Tuesday, said Israel would help its militia ally "overcome its present difficulties." But he stressed: "There is no danger to the existence of the South Lebanon Army."

Shamir did not say what help Israel would provide. But in September 1986, when the South Lebanon Army faced a similar barrage of attacks, Israel massed its troops at its northern border in a show of support.

The South Lebanon Army,

supported by some 1,000 Israeli troops, patrols a 10-to-15 kilometre wide zone in South Lebanon along Israel's border.

More than 100 militiamen have been killed and 200 wounded since Israel carved out the enclave when it withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon in June 1985 after a three-year occupation.

In addition, the militia has been hurt by a spate of desertions, the Jerusalem Post reported. More than 250 men have left the militia since September, the newspaper said.

Since Friday, 11 members of the mainly Paganist 2,000 strong militia have been killed in two attacks in the Israeli-designated buffer zone. Israeli military sources who demanded anonymity blamed both attacks on the Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim Hezbollah (Party of God) guerrillas.

Gen. Antoine Lahd, head of the South Lebanon Army, was quoted by Iltan as saying: "The South Lebanon Army cannot counter increased terrorist activity in the



security zone without Israel's help."

It also reported that Brig.-Gen. David Agmon, chief liaison officer between the Israeli army and the militia, told Gen. Lahd Israel does not differentiate between attacks on militiamen and attacks against Israeli troops, and said Israel will retaliate for any attacks in the security zone.

Israel to consider halting Lavi project

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told a top Pentagon official Israel would seriously consider U.S. proposals to halt production of an advanced jet fighter and replace it with a different project.

But Peres made no commitment about whether the cabinet would agree to stop manufacture of the Lavi plane, which is expected to give a boost to Israel's high-technology industries, according to a government official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

Peres spoke during a 60-minute meeting with U.S. Assistant Undersecretary of Defence Dov Zakheim after the American official outlined five U.S.-suggested alternatives to the Lavi.

Zakheim said after the meeting that his discussions with the Israelis "have been very good... very business-like and cooperative."

"The ball is now in Israel's

court," Zakheim said on Israel Radio.

Peres said Israel would "seriously examine all the alternatives" that Zakheim offered, but he did not elaborate, the Israeli official said.

The United States believes the Lavi, whose first prototype was flown last week, will be too expensive to manufacture.

The U.S. has earmarked an annual \$250 million out of \$1.8 billion in military aid to Israel toward the Lavi.

But Pentagon officials have estimated Israel will have to spend an annual \$1 billion until the year 2000 to complete the project. Israel claims the project will require only an annual expenditure of \$550 million.

Israel is worried that if the project is scrapped, up to 5,000 skilled employees could be out of work. Officials also have warned that putting an end to the project could result in a setback in Israel's technological development and a

brain drain.

Zakheim's proposed alternatives include suggestions that Israel produce other planes, including one of two versions of the U.S.-made F-16, the F-15, a European made Harrier vertical take-off and landing jet or the F-18.

Zakheim brought the proposals in writing to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday. Rabin also received a letter Monday from U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger urging Israel to "seriously consider" the ideas, Davar newspaper reported.

Producing or modifying the F-16 is seen as the best viable alternative to the Lavi, Israeli newspapers said.

The Lavi, which has been slated for full production by 2000, uses a U.S.-built Pratt and Whitney 1120 engine and is boasted as a sophisticated assault jet especially designed to assist Israeli ground troops.

Moscow reportedly bars S. Yemenis from leaving

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — About 300 South Yemeni army officers have been barred from leaving the Soviet Union because they wanted to join deposed President Ali Nasser Muhammad, the newspaper Al Wahda reported Tuesday.

Citing unidentified Arab diplomatic sources in Moscow, the government-guided newspaper also said Moscow had deported 10 South Yemeni students to Aden for expressing their opposition to the new Marxist government of President Heider Al Attas.

Mr. Nasser Muhammad was overthrown last January by the new government after bloody street fighting.

Al Wahda printed a list of the

students, along with a letter of protest from their families to Soviet authorities.

Former South Yemeni Interior Minister Abdullah Al Batani has been under house arrest in Moscow since the power struggle between two rival wings of Aden's Marxist government, the paper said.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in Abu Dhabi said the new leadership in Aden "would arrange for ending the current trial in absentia of Mr. Nasser Muhammad and his supporters on Jan. 13, to coincide with the first anniversary of the civil war."

Al Wahda added the Aden government was expected to execute an unspecified number of politicians loyal to the deposed president.

Sudan to help secure release of Italian hostages

CAIRO (R) Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, in talks with Italy's defence minister, has pledged Khartoum's efforts to try to secure the release of two Italians seized by a rebel Ethiopian group, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Tuesday.

Reporting from Khartoum on the talks Monday night, the agency said Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini afterwards voiced cautious optimism on the

fate of the two hostages, who were helping to construct a road.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) said in Khartoum last week that its armed wing, EPRA, attacked an Ethiopian army unit in northern Ethiopia on Dec. 27 and took some captives, including the two Italians.

Mr. Spadolini was leaving for Somalia later Tuesday and is expected to stop briefly in Cairo on Thursday on his way home.

Egypt rejects Israeli participation in book fair

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian minister of culture has announced that Egypt rejected Israel's request to participate in the Cairo Book Fair.

Dr. Ahmad Heykal denied in an interview with the Abali newspaper Israeli newspaper reports that he had officially invited Israel to participate in the fair. He noted that Israel had

applied last November to participate but had been turned down.

Israel's request to participate in the Cairo Biennale (art festival) had also been rejected, he said. He added that Israel would not be permitted to participate in the fair either directly or indirectly through foreign publishers.

Israelis who met Palestinian leaders receive death threats

TEL AVIV — Leading members of the left-wing delegation which met with the PLO in Romania two months ago have become the target of death threats and practical jokes, following the recent appearance of a pamphlet containing their names, home addresses and phone numbers, the Israeli English Language daily Jerusalem Post reported.

Rakach spokesman Uzi Burstein, who flew to Romania with the delegation but did not participate in the talks, told the Jerusalem Post that the pamphlet was issued by Jewish extremist leader Meir Kahane's Kach

movement.

Burstein has received several anonymous threats over the past week, and has been the victim of various hoaxes. An ambulance was sent to his home and on Friday a burial society phoned to inquire when they could "collect the body of Uzi Burstein."

Burstein said that he had lodged a complaint with the police. But they had not agreed to his request that his telephone be monitored, he said.

Reuven Kaminer, leader of the small Shasni group, has received similar treatment — The Jerusalem Post.

Israeli premier urges agreement on 'who is a Jew'

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir urged the three main movements in Judaism Tuesday to agree on "who is a Jew" rather than force the issue on Israel's parliament.

Israeli religious parties want parliament to bar non-Orthodox converts to Judaism from becoming citizens. Orthodox Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz quit as interior minister over the issue on Sunday.

Shamir, now also interior minister until a replacement is appointed, told reporters he supported the so-called "who is a Jew" law in principle but said he would prefer for Orthodox and non-Orthodox movements to solve the problem.

"The best solution, of course, would be for the existing movements to reach agreement," he said. "I support and would

perhaps help serious efforts to reach agreement so this matter would no longer be a bone of dispute in the Jewish world."

The Orthodox, Conservative and Reform movements — each varying in adherence to Jewish ritual law — are at odds over requirements for conversion to Judaism.

Orthodox rabbis fault their more liberal counterparts for not requiring converts to adhere strictly to some Jewish laws as govern the Sabbath, diet and marital relations.

Peretz resigned in protest because an Israeli court ordered him to recognise a Christian-born American immigrant as Jewish. He refused because the immigrant, Shoshana Miller, was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 — Kora
15:35 — Cartoons
16:00 — Children's programme
16:35 — Scientific programme
17:00 — Thelma Maki Sports
17:30 — A tale of two cities
18:30 — Arabic series
19:30 — Local programme
20:30 — News in Arabic
20:35 — Message from Cairo
20:40 — Documentary
20:50 — Arabic series
21:30 — Arabic series
22:00 — News in Arabic
22:15 — Arabic film

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 — Des chiffres et des lettres
18:30 — Catherine
19:00 — News in French
19:15 — Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 — News in Hebrew
19:45 — Variations
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — The Company
20:55 — Documentary: "The Africans"
22:00 — News in English
22:15 — Bestseller: "Asper"

RADIO JORDAN

835 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& party on 9560 KHz. SW
Tel: 774111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 — Light Music
07:30 — Newsdesk
08:00 — Morning Show
08:30 — News Summary
08:45 — Morning Show
09:00 — News Summary
09:15 — Morning Show
09:30 — News Summary
09:45 — Morning Show
10:00 — News Summary
10:15 — Morning Show
10:30 — News Summary
10:45 — Morning Show
11:00 — News Summary
11:15 — Morning Show
11:30 — News Summary
11:45 — Morning Show
12:00 — News Summary
12:15 — Morning Show
12:30 — News Summary
12:45 — Morning Show
13:00 — News Summary
13:15 — Morning Show
13:30 — News Summary
13:45 — Morning Show
14:00 — News Summary
14:15 — Morning Show
14:30 — News Summary
14:45 — Morning Show
15:00 — News Summary
15:15 — Morning Show
15:30 — News Summary
15:45 — Morning Show
16:00 — News Summary
16:15 — Morning Show
16:30 — News Summary
16:45 — Morning Show
17:00 — News Summary
17:15 — Morning Show
17:30 — News Summary
17:45 — Morning Show
18:00 — News Summary
18:15 — Morning Show
18:30 — News Summary
18:45 — Morning Show
19:00 — News Summary
19:15 — Morning Show
19:30 — News Summary
19:45 — Morning Show
20:00 — News Summary
20:15 — Morning Show
20:30 — News Summary
20:45 — Morning Show
21:00 — News Summary
21:15 — Morning Show
21:30 — News Summary
21:45 — Morning Show
22:00 — News Summary
22:15 — Morning Show
22:30 — News Summary
22:45 — Morning Show
23:00 — News Summary
23:15 — Morning Show
23:30 — News Summary
23:45 — Morning Show
24:00 — News Summary
24:15 — Morning Show

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of architectural paintings of Iraq Al Amir by Francois Larche and Jean-Pierre Lange at the Architecture Gallery — Royal Centre, Jabel Amman (until Jan. 10).

VIDEO

* "On the Banks of Jordan" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabel Luwbeh (until Jan. 23).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre. Tel: 6610267
American Centre. 644371
American Centre library. 641520
British Centre. 6361478
French Cultural Centre. 637009
Goethe Institute. 641093
Soviet Cultural Centre. 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre. 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre. 639777
Hays Arts Centre. 665195
Hays Youth City. 6671816
Y.W.C.A. 641793
W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library. 637111
University of Jordan Library. 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 651760.

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 — Fajr
06:34 — Sunrise
11:42 — Dhuhr
14:28 — Asr
16:50 — Maghrib
18:14 — Isha

SERVICE CLUBS

Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Amman Club, Jabel Luwbeh (until Jan. 23).

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman. Tel: 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luwbeh. Tel: 637440.
De la Saie Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Husein. Tel: 661757.
Terrence Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luwbeh. Tel: 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman. Tel: 678906.
Assiatic Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel: 771331.
Assiatic Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel: 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel: 771751.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisel. Tel: 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabel Amman. 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir). Tel: 811295.
Robber Congregation (International, Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabel Amman. Tel: 606974.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

"This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53300-5, where it should always be verified."

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

08:30 — Agaba (RJ)
08:30 — Cairo (RJ)
08:30 — Damascus (RJ)
08:30 — Kuwait (RJ)
08:30 — Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:30 — Cairo (RJ)
08:30 — New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
08:30 — London, Geneva (RJ)
08:30 — Bangkok (RJ)
08:30 — Madrid, Belgrade (RJ)
08:30 — Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45 — Agaba (RJ)
11:00 — Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:00 — London (RJ)
13:30 — Cairo (RJ)
20:30 — Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30 — Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:30 — Kuwait, Doha (RJ)
21:00 — Baghdad (RJ)
21:00 — Jeddah (RJ)
21:15 — Cairo (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30 — Frankfurt (LH)
08:45 — Damascus, Tripoli (PK)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port.

— Kora Raga

Amn Kaver and Sons Company, with its new offices in Shmeisel, at your service, tel: 60370/15.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The weather will be partly cloudy with south-westerly moderate winds and scattered showers. In Agaba, the wind will be northerly moderate and rough seas.

Amman — 2/7
Agaba — 11/18
Deserts — 2/10
Jordan Valley — 9/17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 6, Agaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 96 per cent, Agaba 34 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local currency rates in JLD

Belgian franc — 84.9/ 85.8
Dutch guilder — 156.6/ 158.2
French franc — 53.4/ 54
Italian lira — 254/ 257
Japanese yen (for 100) — 214.4/ 216.6
Swedish krona — 50.4/ 50.9
Swiss franc — 209.8/ 212.6
U.K. sterling pound — 501.8/ 506.7
U.S. dollar — 341.1/ 343.7
W. German mark — 176.6/ 178.8

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman government — 891228
Amman civil defence — 198, 199
Civil Defence Bldg. — 27129, 27311
Civil Defence Queselmeish — 770733
Civil Defence Deir Alia — 57306
Ambulance — 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade — 198
First aid — 630341
Blood bank — 778303
Civil Defence rescue — 631111
Fire headquarters — 622043
Police rescue — 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters — 639141
Traffic police — 8963901
Electric Power Co. 6363814, 624981
Municipal water complaints — 7711258
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 5333060

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yusuf Rashed — 896301
Dr. Muneir Kaya — 643701
Salim pharmacy — 636730
Salim pharmacy — 668056
Nehru pharmacy — 623672
First pharmacy — 661912

TAXIS

Kayali taxi — 666030
Taxis taxi — 644660
Taxis taxi — 666417
Amman taxi — 847474
Raghad taxi — 842400
Raghad taxi — 736428
Seyal taxi —

Queen Noor inspects vocational training facilities for women

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Tuesday visited the Marka vocational training centre for women and she toured the centre's six sections which offer vocational training for women in the fields of the maintenance and repair of radios and televisions and office equipment, typing and office skills, sales and marketing skills, sewing, home economics and child care and kindergarten skills.

Noteworthy is that three of the centre's programmes are being offered to women for the first time in Jordan. These are — the maintenance of television equipment, the maintenance of office equipment, and sales and marketing skills.

The centre received its first group of trainees in 1984 and now has a total of 160 women. It will graduate its first batch by the end of 1987.

The purpose of Her Majesty's visit to the Marka centre was to review the vocational training opportunities available to women and to explore the possibilities of training women who will benefit from the Noor Al Hussein



Foundation project on training programmes for women in community development and management. The Noor Al Hussein Foundation is carrying out this project in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the women's department at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. The project will be

executed through the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW).

Round-table discussion on pilot project

Her Majesty will chair a round-table discussion Wednesday at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation to discuss launching the foundation's pilot training programmes for women in community development and management projects.

The long-range objective of this three and a half year project is to contribute towards attaining better social and living conditions for women in accordance with national development goals as outlined in Jordan's five-year national development plan for 1986-1990.

The training programmes for women in community development and management projects also aim at increasing the institutional capability of the General Federation of Jordanian Women to develop, implement and manage locally-based family life and income-generating programmes for disadvantaged urban and rural women.

Wednesday's round-table discussions will be attended by a number of ministers and representatives of the development sectors in Jordan and will discuss the goals and objectives of this project and a proposed work plan. The meeting will also explore ways and possibilities of linking the project with available vocational and development training facilities in the Kingdom.

Further drop in temperature, more rain expected

AMMAN (Petra) — More rain will fall in Jordan during the coming 24 hours with snow expected in high areas and a further drop in temperature on Wednesday, according to Dr. Ali Abanda, director general of the Meteorology Department.

Dr. Abanda said that Jordan was still under the effect of a low depression centred over Cyprus and moving slowly towards northern Syria. This depression is accompanied by several cold fronts which brought heavy rain and snow to Jordan, especially in the northern regions of the country, Dr. Abanda continued. He said that up to 35 millimetres of rain fell in the north and some 25 millimetres of rain fell in the central regions of Jordan over the past 24 hours.

Heavy snow began falling in Tafleh and Shobak regions on Tuesday as the rain which started in the north spread towards the centre and the south of the country, Dr. Abanda added.

Roads closed

Meanwhile, the Public Security Department announced that most roads in the Kingdom were passable, except for the following: The Birein, Sarout, Alouk roads which are covered with snow and the Irbid-Ajloun road and the Fuhes-Zay road which are both blanketed with thick fog causing very poor visibility.

Rifai defends government spending of allocations in previous years

Financial committee endorses supplement to budget law but criticises additional spending without prior approval

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Tuesday defended the government's measure of spending allocations originally made for previous years and said this was deemed necessary whenever a project for which an allocation was made is not completed within a particular period or year.

Addressing the Lower House of Parliament in Tuesday's session, during which a supplement to the 1987 budget law was endorsed, the prime minister said that the government has not committed a constitutional violation by spending allocations previously earmarked for projects and he added that the government has the right to spend allocations for urgent projects in accordance with Article 94 of the constitution.

Earlier in the session, recommendations and resolutions taken by the House's financial committee were read out. One of these endorsed a government-sponsored supplement to the budget law; but the committee criticised the government for spending JD 57.785 million without prior approval from the House. The committee said that this action was a violation of the constitution which stipulates that allocations of public funds should not be spent without a given law.

The committee said that there was no justification for the government to present a supplement for additional allocations originally made for 1984, and the government should from now on strictly adhere to the provisions of the constitution in this respect.

It also presented the following

points which it considered as other violations:

1- The supplementary budget contained additional expenditure which are 10 per cent of the total expenditures of the 1985 budget and amount to JD 85 million — a relatively high ratio in a budget supplement.

2- Travel allowances for government employees on official business were noticeably high and the committee recommended that the government reduce such expenses and make use of Jordanian embassy services as much as possible.

Replying to the committee's criticism and points raised by the deputies, Mr. Rifai said that it has been the practice of all governments in Jordan to issue supplements to their budgets. This is deemed necessary because, only after the conclusion of the final accounts of a given fiscal year, can the government make estimates of the actual financial situation and recommend that allocations be carried on to the following year, he said.

Amman Deputy Laith Shubellat said that, with all due respect to Mr. Rifai's clarifications, the government should adhere to the 1984 and 1985 general budgets, he believed that the government should present the House with a draft law whenever any need for extra

expenditure arises. "Any additional expenditure should be submitted with a draft law and should be submitted to the first session of the House," said Mr. Shubellat.

Deputy Salman Al Qudah said that in the light of Mr. Rifai's remarks, "I suggest referring the two additions to the House's financial committee."

Pesticides plant

In Tuesday's session, the House endorsed an agreement between the government and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development under which the Kingdom will obtain a loan to set up a pesticides plant in cooperation with Syria.

Financial Committee member Fuad Farraj commented on the loan agreement and said that the feasibility study presented to Parliament on the pesticides project was not complete and has many "loopholes." This project should have been fully studied by the financial committee first and not, as indeed happened, approved individually by the House's members without the full knowledge of the committee, Mr. Farraj continued.

He proposed a fuller consideration of the project by the financial committee before endorsement, cautioning that failure would be harmful to both countries' economies and would not help the cause of economic integration sought by adjacent Arab states.

Shaka'a replies to query on stricter penalties for crimes of rape, murder

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Ministry of Justice is currently drafting amendments to the penal code under which each crime will be classified separately and penalties will be increased in accordance with the crimes committed.

Minister of Justice Riyadh Shaka'a made this announcement during a Lower House of Parliament session on Tuesday in response to a question raised by Amman Deputy Laith Shubellat who claimed that the penal code was not giving "appropriate penalties" to crimes in general and rape crimes in particular.

Mr. Shubellat also asked whether the government had any plans to tighten penalties for rape and murder.

Mr. Shaka'a said that his ministry was taking time in amending the penal code law due to the "sensitivity and complexity of this legislation," but he promised that the new draft would be presented to Parliament before the House's fourth ordinary session ends in February 1987.

Case of four-year old boy raped and strangled to death

In his question, Mr. Shubellat enquired about the outcome of investigations into the rape and murder of a four-year old boy, Marzouq Naser Al Sweilem, and

the penalty to be imposed on the five criminals who committed and who were involved in that crime.

The following persons have been charged with killing the child: Mohammad Abdou Odeh, Suleiman, Jamal, Mahmoud Al Dahdoudh, Ali Youssef Shahab, Khaled Salameh Al Marshdeh and Khaled Eid Abed Suleiman.

The minister replied that the case was referred to the military court on 2-12-1986 upon the request of the military governor (the prime minister). But Mr. Shubellat, who thanked the minister of justice for his reply, said that he wondered why the case was referred to the military court. "Was it for the sake of securing a harsher penalty that the case was referred to the military court?" Mr. Shubellat asked.

He said that he wanted the heaviest possible penalty to be imposed on the accused persons and he proposed that the regulations pertaining to civilian courts be amended so they would be empowered to impose the harshest penalties on such criminals and in line with the sentences passed by military courts.

The body of the murdered boy was found in November, nearly six months after the murder had been committed. His body, which had been cut into pieces, had been left in a bag in an outlying district, east of Amman. According to a police autopsy, the child had been raped and then strangled to death.

House endorses four laws

(Continued from page 1)

needed;

- They should be registered as members of the JCA;
- They should employ Jordanian labourers and engineers in accordance with the contract;
- Their countries of origin should grant Jordanian contractors an equal treatment.

In cases where development projects are financed by non-Jordanian funds, foreign companies should be working with local contracting companies in the form of joint-ventures, according to the law.

However, in very special cases, foreign companies will be allowed to carry out local construction work on their own, but only after a special committee chaired by the minister of public works finds adequate reasons for such an alternative.

The local contracting industry, which adds around 10 per cent to the gross national product (GNP), and employs almost 17 per cent of the total Jordanian working force, was facing numerous problems as a result of foreign competition and due to other organisational and classification reasons.

The new law also introduced penalties to stop violations. Under the legislation, any Jordanian company which violates articles of the law concerning the JCA will be prohibited for a period not exceeding one year from conducting business.

In greater violations, such as those listed under Article 17 — mainly illegal forms of commissions — local contractors will be banned from operating for a period not exceeding two years. Violators will also not be allowed to take part in any tender during that period. They will also have to pay a violation fee of one per cent of the total tender cost.

Furthermore, if any company is charged for two consecutive terms for violations, its name will be removed from the JCA records and all public and concerned authorities will be notified of the association's decision.

In an interview with the Jordan Times shortly after the law was passed, JCA President Ali Abu Al Ragheb described the legislation as a "major breakthrough" in Jordan's contracting history since it gives a "sincere reassurance to the role of this sector." The association earlier functioned under a special order issued by the minister of labour.

The new law also organises the role of the JCA and introduces new articles regarding its internal charter, quorum for general assemblies and for elections.

According to the new law, the JCA will be responsible for the following:

- To halt illegal competition and to organise the relationship among its members;
- To take part with the Ministry of Public Works in classifying local contractors;
- To suggest the Ministry of Public Works any call for new amendments to the law;
- To work towards employing Jordanian resources and expertise in construction;
- To take part in training schemes to upgrade the technical and professional capabilities of the sector's workers;
- To collect all data needed on the industry and to exchange them with the concerned authorities;
- To store and classify all data on the contractors and the jobs and duties they are carrying out;
- To issue a monthly magazine and specialised periodicals on construction.

Mr. Abu Al Ragheb, who was elected JCA president nine months ago, said he expected more than 400 contracting

companies and almost 200 individual contractors to join the association.

He explained that contractors would be classified in five groups in accordance with their types of services and qualifications. During Tuesday's session three other draft laws were also endorsed.

The law on youth care that was endorsed by the House on Tuesday authorises the Ministry of Youth to supervise all youth activities in Jordan. Earlier, the Youth Welfare Association, which was founded in 1966, was carrying out these responsibilities.

The new law calls on the Ministry of Youth to deepen the sense of belonging among Jordanian youth and to raise them on the basis of respect for the Constitution and law and guarantee for their rights of freedom.

Encouraging youth to engage sports activities is one of the main goals of the ministry in accordance with the new law.

Under the new law, a new society for Jordanian scouts will be established to draw up a scouts policy and implement it in the Kingdom.

A national committee for Olympic Games will also be set up.

The new law also grants the ministry the right to set up sports societies and to license federations belonging to these societies.

The draft law on the 1984 Aqaba Regional Authority defined the status of the Aqaba region's 11-member council, and increased the number of members appointed by the prime minister from two to three.

An appeal committee for the Aqaba region will be formed including the under-secretary of the Ministry of Justice, an appeal judge and another member to be appointed by the Cabinet. The earlier appeals committee included the under-secretary and two appointed members.

The new draft law is believed to have been amended to suit new ARA schemes to abolish a number of the area's shacks and introduce a new urban development project.

Therefore, the draft law also said that the appeals committee would be entrusted with evaluating any objection levelled against the authority if it decides to appropriate private-owned land for development and other reasons.

During Tuesday's session the Lower House also endorsed a temporary law on appropriation of land and amendments to that law. According to the law, the government, represented by ministries, official organisations or municipalities, can take control of real estate or land for employing the appropriated estate for public use. In return, the government or the concerned municipal council should pay appropriate compensation to the owner or owners.

If the owner is not satisfied with the amount of compensation, a special committee should be set up to look into the grievances and complaints according to the endorsed law. It said that if the appropriated estate is being taken for opening a road or building a housing unit benefitting government employees then one third of the appropriated land could be taken without any compensation being paid to the owner.

According to the law, the owner can reclaim his property from the government or the organisation or municipality through a court order if the appropriated estate had not been used for the stated purpose three years after it had been taken.

Income tax revenues down 12% for 1986

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Income Tax Department collected JD 47.9 million in 1986 from Jordanian individuals and businesses, 12 per cent less than the amount of JD 54.4 million collected in 1985, Income Tax Department Director Salman Tarawneh announced on Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Tarawneh said that his department expects to collect JD 55 million during 1987, of which JD 28.5 million will be from different firms and businesses.

Mr. Tarawneh attributed the decrease in the amount of income tax collected over the past year to new government laws offering exemptions in income earned from rent on buildings. In addition, he said, last year a large number of banks and organisations invested in government-sponsored projects which offer tax exemptions. Also, the bankruptcy of no less than 50 money exchange businesses, in

addition to a retreat in the profits of large firms and banks reflected negatively on the income tax paid to the department by such companies and organisations, Mr. Tarawneh added.

Questionnaires

Mr. Tarawneh referred to questionnaires currently being distributed by his department to various businesses and said that these are to be filled out by the proprietors of businesses, detailing particulars about their income during the past year so that tax can be calculated accordingly.

The department, he continued, distributed 63,653 questionnaires last year and it is hoped that some 70,000 questionnaires will be distributed by the department during 1987. He also called on the public to cooperate with the Income Tax Department to help complete the process with the minimum of complications.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rifai issues circular on purchase tenders

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Tuesday issued a circular instructing all government departments not to announce purchase tenders without consulting and coordinating with the Ministries of Finance and Planning. The circular said that the new measure is deemed necessary to implement an agreement between the Jordanian government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on the purchase of various commodities for the public sector during the current year. The agreement was signed last September.

Arab interior council official arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — The secretary general of the Arab Ministers of Interior Council, Dr. Akram Nashaat, arrived in Amman on Tuesday on a several day visit to Jordan at the invitation of Public Security Department Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali. During his stay, Dr. Nashaat will visit security and police departments in the country. Upon his arrival at the Queen Alia International Airport, Dr. Nashaat was met by Major General Mohammad Obeidat, assistant to the public security director, and Brigadier Youssef Al Gharaibeh, director of the anti-narcotics bureau, and other senior Public Security Department officers.

Jordan to attend planning symposium

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting on land use and regional planning, due to open in Tokyo on Saturday, Mr. Mohammad Al Momani from the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment will take part in the three-week symposium and will present a working paper on Jordan's regional planning. Mr. Momani will also speak about a general survey conducted in the Karak and Tafleh regions and which covered demographic, social and developmental spheres.

Iraqi envoy visits martyrs' cemetery

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Jassem Ghafel Hussein on Tuesday paid a visit to the Iraqi martyrs' cemetery in Mafraq where he laid a wreath and recited verses of the Holy Koran. He was accompanied by embassy staff and local officials. The visit was made to mark the 66th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi armed forces. The governor of Mafraq, the police chief, senior officials and high ranking army officers also laid wreaths at the site.

Journalists remember trip to Europe

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of local journalists who went on a trip to London and Paris last year, met up again on Monday when manager of the Marriott Hotel Haila Aguilu hosted a reunion dinner party. The trip to London and Paris last November was co-sponsored by the hotel and British Airways and included visits to historic sites in both cities as well as interviews with British and French foreign affairs officials.

Deputies present proposals

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputies presented a number of proposals, ranging from amendments to existing laws to building and expanding individual roads and clinics in rural districts, during yesterday's session of the Lower House.

Twenty-seven deputies signed a proposal to amend an article in the law of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) which stipulates the irrevocability of decisions taken by the association's disciplinary committee. The committee rules on medical practices in the country and, according to the association's current law (amended in 1972), its rulings are irrevocable.

In their written proposal to the House's speaker, the 27 deputies asked that this article be amended to conform with "judicial principles in the Kingdom which do not acknowledge the irrevocability of administrative decisions." The proposal calls for empowering the Cessionation Court of Justice, which is the highest court in Jordan's legal system, to look into decisions taken by the medical association's disciplinary committee and to over rule them if necessary.

In another proposal, nine deputies called for building tunnels on the University of Jordan Road, in front of the campus' site, to replace the flyovers which the deputies said are difficult to use in winter time. "Due to the increasing number of accidents and the loss of life in the area," the deputies said, "we call on the concerned authorities to build tunnels and to give this project a top priority."

A third proposal, signed by eight deputies, called for lowering the price of diesel for farmers who use this fuel in motor generators utilised for agricultural purposes.

AMPCO sends fruit and vegetables to W. Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) shipped its first consignment of vegetables and citrus fruit to West Germany on Monday aboard a Royal Jordanian aircraft and the company intends to send more shipments of crops to Germany by land and air according to a set timetable, AMPCO Director General Ghazi Abu Hassan announced on Tuesday.

He said that AMPCO will soon sign a barrier agreement with Poland for purchasing 1,000 tonnes of Polish apples in return for Jordanian citrus fruit and on Thursday AMPCO will sign an agreement with a team of Bahraini importers to ship Jordanian fruit and vegetables to Bahrain.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that the shipment of Jordanian fruits and vegetables to Kuwait is continuing, according to a set

programme.

Mr. Abu Hassan, who was speaking at a meeting with Jordanian crop exporters, said that AMPCO will continue to explore Arab and foreign markets for exporting Jordanian products and will do all it can to safeguard the interests of local producers.

AMPCO will also take part in an industrial fair to be staged in Muscat during the coming month and will display a variety of Jordanian crops at the fair, Mr. Abu Hassan continued.

He said that AMPCO has received several offers to process fruit and vegetables and to build cold stores for produce and added that the company will consider the offers prior to establishing plants and warehouses for the locally produced crops. He said a special committee is studying these offers and preparations are going on to implement these projects.

New archaeological dig gets under way at Pella

AMMAN (Petra) — A new archaeological season has started at Pella (Tabaqet Fahl) to follow up on excavations conducted at the same site a few years ago. A joint team from the Department of Antiquities and Sydney University in Australia are conducting the excavations.

According to Mr. Hikmat Al Taani, inspector of archaeology in Irbid Governorate where the excavations are taking place, previous digs carried out since 1977 have uncovered artefacts dating back to various periods as far back as the Stone Age through to the Islamic era.

Among the sites unearthed during the dig was an ancient mosque dating back to the Mameluk period and a cathedral, a temple and a Roman theatre, all dating back to the Byzantine era, Mr. Taani added.

He said excavations unearthed Islamic pottery and gold coins dating back to the Umayyad period, in addition to glassware and jewellery from the Roman age.

Mr. Taani said that the Department of Antiquities will carry out maintenance and restoration work unearthed at the site of Pella.



Ancient stone lion stolen from Jerash

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 300-kilogramme statue of a lion has been stolen from the ruins of Jerash, and the Department of Antiquities has launched a campaign to recover the valuable object.

Dr. Adnan Hadidi, director of the Department of Antiquities, told the Jordan Times that on the morning of Dec. 27, an international team of experts working on restoring the Temple of Zeus at Jerash discovered that

the stone sculpture of lion, which decorated the entrance to the temple, was missing.

The statue, which dates back to the mid-Second Century (the Roman period), was in the upper terrace of the temple on Dec. 26. "The incident definitely happened at night since the team works all day and into the evening," said Dr. Hadidi. He believes that the thieves used wooden beams to roll the statue and then made their escape in a small pick-up.

Jordan Times

(For advertisement rates and conditions, please refer to the Jordan Times advertisement department.)

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL-SAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAR

Editor in Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWTHORN

Editorial and Advertising Offices:
Arabian Press Foundation
University Road, P.O. Box 5189, Amman, Jordan
(Telephone: 671111, 670141)
Telex: 21077 ALKAL JO
Facsimile: 661542

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Unemployment and remedies

THE ministerial committee in charge of remedying unemployment convened in full strength on Monday after a preparatory meeting of some of its members a few days earlier. While we are not privy to the inner thoughts and views of the members of that committee, we trust that in its meetings it would face the issue head on and make the necessary decisions, hard as they come in order to alleviate the problem at hand.

We take note with gratification and appreciation that the committee is proceeding with a two-pronged strategy: one short range and the other long term. As much as any one of us would like to avoid the issue of foreign labourers, especially those who come from Egypt, it is inescapable for the committee to face up to that problem and to find ways to enable Jordanians to find jobs, and as soon as possible. This aspect of the problem is most pressing and regardless of how much we would like to avoid it, it has to be met and addressed quickly. Our economy is not capable of accommodating non-Jordanian workers at the expense of Jordanians, and the sooner we accept this proposition the better. Our brotherly Arab countries would surely understand and appreciate our dilemma and hardships and one would therefore expect that they would manifest at least tolerance if not approval.

The long-range solutions are certainly multifaceted and the committee has already addressed some of them. They vary from the need to reorient our educational and vocational training programmes to the adoption of general policy strategies in the domain of recruitments and creation of job opportunities in various sectors of our economy. In any case, the underlying problem of unemployment would continue to haunt our people and country as long as our national economy remains unrevived and the rate of growth below average. Once our economy picks up and its wheels begin again to move forward at a reasonable speed then surely our unemployment would gradually disappear. Until then, we hope and trust that every needed step will be taken to ensure for our people their right to work and security.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Hopes for Lebanon

WHEN the three-party Lebanese peace agreement was signed in Damascus one year ago hopes were revived that a final solution for the Lebanese crisis will soon be reached. But the Lebanese president, Amin Gemayel, rejected the agreement and his refusal led to a series of tragedies and new sufferings and more destruction in his country. Despite intensified efforts on the part of several parties to bring the conflict to an end in the past year, the war and the killing continued and the refugee camps remained under siege. The dimension of the tragedy makes it imperative for leaders of all factions and the leaders of Arab countries to intensify new efforts and end the tragedy in Lebanon. Therefore, the arrival of two Lebanese envoys in Damascus for talks with Syrian officials, and the revival of the tripartite agreement should constitute a step towards achieving the minimum level of understanding which is inevitable if a solution to Lebanon's crisis is to be found. The first step now should be a halt to all forms of conflict and to the fighting which cannot achieve any victory to any single party in Lebanon. We hope that the two envoys sent to Damascus by President Gemayel will achieve fruitful results in their talks and we also hope that the talks would pave the way for a dialogue among the warring factions of Lebanon that could lead to a lasting solution.

Al Dustour: New U.S.-Israel deal

THE United States is currently trying to persuade the Israeli government to scrap plans for manufacturing the Lavi plane and is offering Tel Aviv a lucrative substitute which is bound to strengthen Israel's military capability. Washington has proposed to Tel Aviv that Israel manufacture 300 F-16 warplanes equipped with electronic devices to suit Israel's expansionist programmes in the Arab area. Such a deal, and American military help to Israel, are something unprecedented in international relations. The Pentagon, which is negotiating with Israel over the deal, is thus presenting Israel with a new gift from the United States. This can be considered as a form of declared war on the Arabs because such a deal is bound to enable Israel to expand its territory and maintain its occupation of Arab land beyond any limits. Above all, this deal would enable Israel to pursue its terrorist campaigns against the Arab people of Palestine and prevent the Arabs from regaining their usurped rights and their homeland. This American-Israeli deal constitutes one of the most dangerous threats to the future of the Arab Nation and should be confronted with unity on the part of the Arab countries, and with joint action and solidarity for thwarting all enemy plans and designs.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arab moves before Kuwait summit

THE Islamic summit due to be held in Kuwait towards the end of this month will be the focus of attention of Arabs and Muslims because the gathering will allow Arab and Muslim leaders to renew efforts for fulfilling the aspirations of their masses. The summit comes at a most crucial moment when the Arabs and Muslims are facing common dangers and threats, and when the Arab Nation is confronting challenges that threaten its future. The summit will require all genuine efforts and serious endeavours on the part of the participants so that the deliberations will be fruitful and the meetings yield effective results. These leaders are faced with serious conflicts within the Arab and Islamic nations and are confronted with dissident voices that instigate others not to take part in the summit meeting. Numerous hostile elements within and outside the Arab and Islamic nations have been working hard to undermine the Kuwait meeting because they aim at maintaining a weak force that cannot confront the challenges. In fact, the present tragic situation in the Arab and Muslim worlds requires an immediate summit and, of the Arab leaders in particular, to shoulder a great responsibility for making the Kuwait meeting a success since it is their nation that is suffering most, and it is Arab land in Palestine that is occupied, and Arab territory in Iraq that is being exposed to aggression.

Nakasone, with dented armour, seeks to be Japan's next 'kingmaker'

By Yuko Nakamikado
Reuter



Yasuhiro Nakasone

TOKYO — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone may yet become Japan's next political kingmaker. But the shining armour he won in a landslide election victory last July is looking somewhat dented and dulled.

His touch of late has been less sure. A slip of the tongue on racial problems offended Americans. He got embroiled in a fight at home over sweeping tax reforms and Moscow has refused to give him a diplomatic accolade he covets.

The fact that the political clout of his close friend and ally, President Reagan, has been seriously weakened by the row over the secret supply of arms to Iran has not helped.

Political analysts believe Nakasone has accumulated enough political capital to see him through his domestic battles. But they think that next summer he will make a graceful exit from the premiership, opting instead to become the power broker of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"He is most likely to step down late in June or early July after getting parliamentary approval of tax reform bills and attending the June 8-10 summit of industrial democracies in Venice," Kenzo Uchida, professor of politics at Tokyo's Hosei University, said.

Nakasone, who is 68, has said

he will attend the summit.

Although LDP rules limit a prime minister to four years in office, Nakasone won a fifth year of power last October, thanks largely to his overwhelming election victory but partly also because his potential successors were not ready to take over.

Analysts said that his successors might prefer to leave it to Nakasone to drive through, and accept any criticism for the government's contentious plans for tax reform and to privatise Japan's national railways, which are deeply in debt.

There is vigorous opposition to bills reaching parliament this month which would end tax concessions to small savers — an

abused but sacrosanct system in Japan — and levy a value-added tax to raise much-needed revenue.

The value-added tax would also offset the effect of tax cuts designed to stimulate domestic consumption. This would cushion the effect on industry of the loss of exports due to the yen's rise against the dollar.

Last month the prime minister guided through parliament a series of eight bills to privatise the Japan National Railways Corporation (JNR) from April 1. By then JNR will have debts of around 37,000 billion yen (\$227 billion).

Nakasone's image as a leader of world stature, a novelty to a people used to prime ministers who tended to keep their mouths shut when abroad, has also faded.

His popularity was severely tested when his remark that low educational levels of blacks and Hispanics harmed U.S. industry provoked a storm of protest in the United States, where Reagan's current problems have made the much-vaunted "Ron and Yasu" relationship less of a trump card for the Japanese leader.

He has his problems too with Moscow, which has so far declined to furnish a diplomatic feather to his cap by falling in with his plan to invite Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Tokyo and to make a return visit to Moscow.

Whatever Nakasone decides, analysts agree that the next prime minister will be selected in

closed-door bargaining between the major LDP factions, with Nakasone taking the lead.

Noboru Takeshita, 62, LDP secretary-general, has emerged as front runner in the race for the succession, they said.

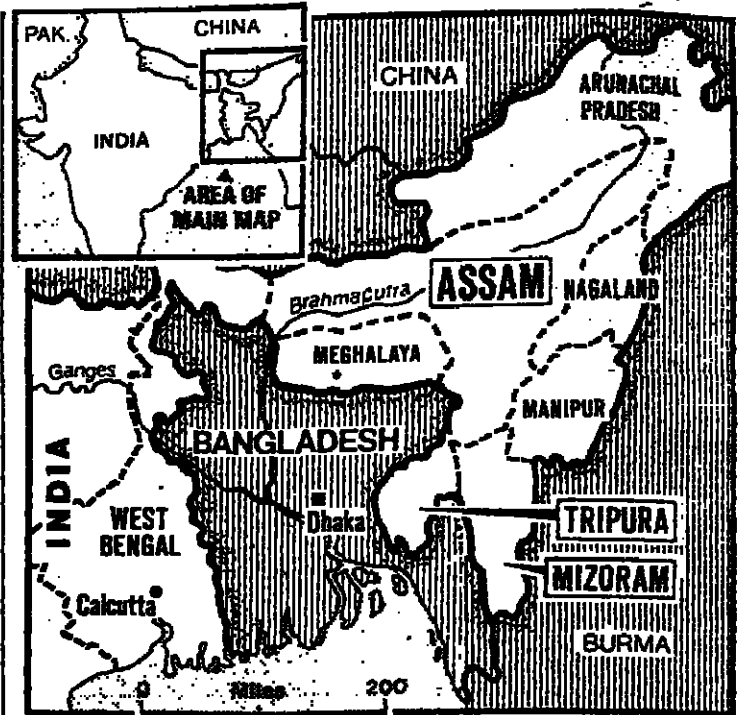
Takeshita holds the key party position with the largest LDP faction behind him. Most of its 141 members are former supporters of Kakuei Tanaka, the powerful leader who first put the word "kingmaker" in Japan's political vocabulary.

However some analysts tipped as a possible choice Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, a 67-year-old economist who, unlike most other Japanese politicians, can engage in serious discussion in English with his American negotiating partners.

Nakasone's aggressive style of leadership, which has helped raise his country's international profile, has made it difficult for Japan to choose a prime minister who cannot hold his own in the councils of world leaders.

A once strong third contender, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, 62, who is now an LDP executive, remains the most popular of the three main contenders to opinion polls. But his faction emerged from the July polls as the second smallest of the five main LDP groupings.

"He is like Haley's Comet which is now getting farther away from the earth," one analyst said.



World's first student government completes one year in office

By Utpal Bordoloi
Reuter

GAUHATI, India — Elected a year ago on a pledge to expel millions of Bengali immigrants from Assam state in north east India, the world's first student government is still trying to find its feet.

The Assam People's Front (APF) government marked its first anniversary on Dec. 24 with rallies and exhibitions.

But critics say its achievements are largely national and that the party has done little to fulfil its election promises to Assam's 20 million people.

The APF was formed after India's central government signed a peace accord in August, 1985, ending six years of agitation by militant Assamese who want Bengali immigrant settlers to be stripped of their voting rights and deported. At least 3,000 people died in anti-immigrant riots during that period.

The agreement was hailed as Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's most important political initiative after the Punjab settlement.

The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and the People's Struggle Front, which led the anti-immigrant campaign, formed the APF only two months before last year's elections. It defeated Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) party to take power in a state best known abroad for its tea but vital to India for its oil reserves.

Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, a 30-year-old law student left the classrooms of Gauhati University to take the chief minister's chair. Other AASU leaders became ministers.

The press dubbed the APF "the bachelor party" because 52 of its 71 legislators were single when they came to power.

But that is rapidly changing. The forests, health, industries, transport and home ministers all got married this year to young women they had met at university. Mahanta himself will follow suit next month.

Weddings apart, the APF has had little to celebrate. Its first year

in power has been marked by natural disasters, including epidemics of malaria and viral encephalitis that claimed over 600 lives. A severe drought followed by unseasonal floods caused damage estimated at more than seven billion rupees (\$500 million).

Ethnic divisions have sharpened too. Three different separatist movements have been launched by tribal groups whose leaders say they are discriminated against by the high-caste, Hindu-dominated APF.

Muslim and Bengali leaders say their followers are arbitrarily accused of being illegal immigrants and ordered to get out of Assam.

The APF is also under fire from its own supporters for failing to expel illegal immigrants, the central clause of the peace accord and the party's main election plank.

But APF leaders blame New Delhi, which they say is dragging its feet on enacting legislation necessary to identify and deport immigrants who came from Bangladesh and Nepal.

"We have done all that is possible for us to do under existing laws," Mahanta said. "It is the central government which is not sincere about carrying out its commitments."

The APF called a general strike that shut down Assam on Dec. 8 in protest at New Delhi's slowness in implementing the peace accord.

Mahanta said his government had begun investigations under existing laws against nearly 250,000 immigrants who settled in Assam between 1961 and 1971 and are to be stripped of voting rights under the terms of the accord.

Nearly 40,000 cases have also been started against immigrants who arrived after 1971 and are to be deported under the accord.

"Up to Nov. 15 we had expelled 1,113 foreign nationals from Assam," Mahanta added. But he would not say how the expulsion were carried out. Bangladesh said it will not accept deportees from Assam.

Murphy arrives

(Continued from page 1)

here for is to discuss the peace process and our bilateral relationships. I think the peace process in this region is an issue of great importance to all of us it stands on its own merits."

The American envoy refused to be drawn into answering whether he would be trying to work out a common agreement between the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict on convening an international conference on the Middle East as called for by Jordan. "I almost never comment on comments about what I am doing," he said.

Asked whether he would be discussing the formation of a preparatory panel for the proposed international conference, Mr. Murphy said: "For us, the preparatory committee is not a very attractive proposition. So, we'll be discussing the peace process overall but we don't have much interest in a preparatory committee as such."

Mr. Murphy, whose current trip to the Middle East includes Egypt and Israel, is expected to stay here until late Wednesday or early Thursday, according to informed sources. He was holding consultations with the American ambassador to Jordan and other U.S. officials Tuesday night and is expected to be received by the King on Wednesday.

Reports in the Israeli press have said that the main goal of Mr. Murphy's current visit was to repair the damage caused to American credibility in the Arab World by the secret Washington-Tehran deal.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Monday Mr. Murphy was not carrying any new initiatives to revive the Middle East peace process.

Reagan tissue is benign

(Continued from page 1)

Speakes said an exact release date had not been determined yet. "I think it's a call the doctors will make in the next day or so," Speakes said.

Speakes also said the president was outraged, concerned and disappointed by the refusal of the Senate Intelligence Committee to make public its report on the Iran arms scandal.

Secret arms sales to Iran and the diversion of profits to anti-government rebels in Nicaragua has plunged Mr. Reagan into the worst crisis of his presidency. Since the affair became public in November, Mr. Reagan's job approval rating has fallen.

"The president is outraged. The president is deeply disappointed. The president is concerned that a committee of elected representatives in the U.S. Congress will not make available the facts they have gathered in this Iran funding matter," Speakes said.

He called the report "the most comprehensive report of any one body so far" and said the American people were entitled to see it.

"We want the truth out, the facts, and this is the best compilation of facts that exists, sworn under oath and so forth."

LETTERS

Scholarship that never was

To the Editor:

In a news item carried by the Jordan Times on Jan. 5, 1987, under the title "British Council awards certificates to royal scholarship recipients," you mentioned that my son, Yazid, was one of the three recipients of the "King Hussein Scholarships" which are donated by the Davies Educational Trust annually to outstanding Jordanian students.

I would like to bring to your attention the fact that Yazid has never received a scholarship from Davies' college, although he did his "A" levels there and passed them in 1982-1983. All that Yazid received was a certificate of a scholarship, from the college (through the British Council on Jan. 4, 87) but nothing else.

Dr. Mitri Sharaiha
P.O. Box 999
Amman

Nobel is not noble

To the Editor:

I would like to refer to Mr. Rami Khouri's most interesting article on Elie Wiesel (the Jordan Times of Dec. 31, 1986) and the questions asked by Mr. Khouri namely, is Wiesel genuine? Sincere and serious? I believe these questions are well answered in the following footnote in the "Private Eye" magazine.

A footnote to the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1978 it was won by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who in the 1940s headed the notorious Irgun organisation, responsible for a string of atrocities against both British and Arabs, including the murder of kidnapped British soldiers and the massacre of 250 Palestinian civilians in the village of Deir Yassin.

This year's prize, less absurdly, was awarded to Elie Wiesel, a survivor of the German death camps. However, few commentators mention that he went to Palestine after World War II and joined Irgun. In his book Dawn, Wiesel says that he participated in the killing of two abducted British army sergeants.

Yitzhak Shamir, declared: "You have given expression to the voice of peace and freedom in your constant struggle against anti-Semitism and oppression." Shamir of course was one of the triumvirate which headed Irgun's rivals the Stern Gang, responsible, inter alia, for the murder of Lord Moyne, Britain's Minister of State in Cairo.

M.M. Usaid
P.O. Box 5161
Amman

New image of Philippines communism — gentle, measured and vague

By Arthur Spiegelman

Reuter

MANILA — It is not easy being a revolutionary leader in Manila these days.

Sometimes Philippine Communist leader Antonio Zume, a former journalist who spent 14 years in hiding, not having to autograph slips of paper and 20-peso notes thrust at him by giggling teenagers.

There are the television talk shows to contend with, endless requests for interviews and an interminable round of dinners as well as long meetings with government officials and generals, peeved because they feel the communists are getting a better press than the military.

For years the communist insurgent leaders were faceless figures with a price on their heads, in hiding, on the run or in jail. That image has changed radically in a month, thanks to a 60-day ceasefire accord that has propelled the rebel cause into the limelight. Their three official negotiators are instant celebrities, free to come and go, to say what they please, where and when they please.

Some officials are so unhappy with the publicity being won by the rebels, who have fought a 17-year war in the countryside, that they say it feels as if the government had been driven underground.

President Corason Aquino recently revamped her information department, hoping that official radio and television would present the government's case better — or at least so presenting the rebel case so well.

Zume, a former journalist who spent 14 years in hiding, seems to find all this difficult to accept. When at a public meeting recently a group of teenage girls demanded his autograph as if he were a pop star, he was clearly embarrassed. He quickly assured a nearby reporter that they were paying tribute to his cause and not him.

In an interview with Reuters the National Democratic Front (NDF) negotiator went to great pains to stress that the current phase might not last.

"It is a protracted people's war and there is a long way to go. We do believe in armed struggle as the principal means of waging a revolution," he said almost apologetically.

Zume, Satur Ocampo and Carolina Malay, the three former journalists who form the NDF negotiating panel, will start peace talks with the government on Tuesday.

Their demands so far do not exactly form a revolutionary agenda. Often vaguely formulated, they could be read as a call for social reform rather than revolution.

The rebels want the peasants to own their farms, with compensation for the landlords. Their platform calls for collectivisation, if, as Zume says, "the people want it." He says he would like to see a flowering of native capitalism and has nothing against properly managed foreign investment.

The rebels want the U.S. military bases in the Philippines dismantled and part of the country's huge foreign debt repudiated.

They also want a broad-based coalition government of which they will be a part and a new constitution that would give peasants and workers a true say in the government.

The government, rejecting



A relaxed army patrol making its rounds in Mindanao island (File photo)

many of the major rebel demands, says it wants the rebels to lay down their arms and to seek political power through democratic means. It estimates that there are 23,500 rebels under arms, with the guerrillas controlling or influencing a fifth of the country's more than 40,000 villages.

Zume says the movement has about 30,000 fighters but that only a few have modern weapons. He admits the movement is far from being in a position to take over the country at present.

He also says he is not worried if the peace talks fail.

"If the talks fail or if the 60-day ceasefire is scrapped, I will go back into the underground and carry on as before. They (the government) have been talking about rehabilitating me. I don't think this is healthy."

"We are not asking for a amnesty. We have done nothing against the people."

Comic relief for Arab tensions

From Tom Porteous in Cairo

AN Egyptian and a Syrian — their governments at odds about Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel — are to cooperate in filming a comic allegory of the modern Arab predicament.

Two of the Arab cinema's best level stars, the Egyptian comedian Aadel Imam, and the Syrian actor and director, Doreid Lahham, will work together in the film, A Nation in Heaven, which is about an Arab who lives in a plane because he cannot live anywhere on earth.

Plans for the film were published here last month during one of the best Cairo film festivals of recent years, which included films by Syrian, Algerian, Moroccan, Tunisian, and Iraqi directors.

Egyptian audiences at the festival made it clear they found more to identify with and laugh at in films like Lahham's satire on Arab politics. The Report, than in many European films.

In contrast to previous years, Egyptian censors this year refrained from editing sexually explicit scenes from European entries, like Neil Jordan's British production about a London call girl, Mona Lisa. But two films were withdrawn from the festival because organisers said they were anti-Arab. Festival officials said one, an Italian film which they declined to name, contained shades of Zionist propaganda in its treatment of the Nazi persecution of the Jews.

Such nuances of Arab solidarity in Egypt's thriving film world come at a time when the Egyptian President, Mr. Hosni Mubarak, is reaping the fruit of his diplomatic efforts to edge Egypt back into political favour in the Arab world. Since the Arab boycott of Egypt following Anwar Sadat's peace treaty with Israel, Egypt has restored good working relations with most Arab states.

Last month, President Mubarak accepted an invitation — his first — to rub shoulders with Arab leaders at the Organisation of Islamic Conference summit in Kuwait in January.

However, there has never been much serious contention of Egypt's cultural ascendancy among the Arabs. Even during the stoniest of Arab silences at Egypt's political overtures to Arab states in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Arab television sets were ablaze with imported Egyptian soap operas and films — The Guardian.



Concert in Paulus Castle: During the Vogtland Days of Music concerts take place in the garden of the Museum of Musical Instruments in Paulus Castle of Markneukirchen which are presented by the instrument makers. The castle is a popular attraction not only because of its architecture. There is also the biggest European collection of musical

instruments in the castle which is under conservation. In 1983 the industrial museum — the predecessor of today's museum — was founded mainly for illustrative purposes for young people making musical instruments. The originally limited collection comprises some 1,600 exhibits today. (Photo by ADN-Zentralbild)

Musical instrument-making in the Vogtland

FOR 300 years musical instruments have been made in the upper Vogtland, a lovely countryside in the south of the German Democratic Republic.

The towns of Markneukirchen and Klingenthal are a synonym for the "sounding and singing Vogtland." During the last four centuries, especially since the foundation of the GDR in 1949, the "musical corner" in the Erzgebirge mountains has changed its face fundamentally. New factories were erected and existing ones were reconstructed and modernised. This was the basis to specialise and enlarge the production.

The instruments and parts of instruments are built either by

hand or industrially.

To preserve the tradition training and promoting of young people is essential for the Vogtland musical industry.

More than 12,000 experts are occupied in more than 100 musical workshops and industry of instruments. Almost all instruments which exist are made here: pianos and electronic keyboards, accordions, mouthorgans and musical plays, violins, cellos and double basses, trumpets, French horns and tubas, sound and percussion instruments which are exported to 80 countries all over the world. More than 50 times already, instrument builders from the Vogtland were awarded gold medals and diplomas for their

handicraft skills.

Every year the "Vogtland Days of Music" take place in Markneukirchen and Klingenthal where musicians, music educationalists and scientists from many countries get together.

In May 1986, more than 200 young solo players from 25 countries came to this music festival taking place in the upper Vogtland. 146 wind-players met in Markneukirchen for a competition in the fields of horn, trumpet and trombone. In Klingenthal 61 accordion solo players entered the competition for the desirable prizes — Allgemeiner Deutscher Nachrichtendienst (ADN).



Walter Kohling (right) and Helmut Meinel, both engineers in the research department of the nationally-owned factory VEB Musikinstrumentbau Markneukirchen, make use of modern methods of measuring. The sound quality

and the quality of playing the instrument are checked. The new electronic devices are especially in demand. Photo shows the models "Lead-Star" and "Hawaii Gitarre." (ADN-Zentralbild).

Mini-doctors make little work of community problems

By Celia Curtis

A DOCTOR who introduced a school meals programme in one of Bombay's newest slums was unable to attract students' mothers to come and see what food was good for their children. One day she told the children the meals would be stopped if their mothers did not come. They all turned up the next day.

From this experience, Dr. Vijaya Bhalerao, a Bombay-based professor of preventive and social medicine, who runs the health centre in Malavani with its population of 50,000, was convinced that children could be used as channels to their parents.

She pinpointed the most prevalent childhood health problems in the community — TB, scabies, worms, diarrhoea and malaria — picked a group of bright 10 and 11-year-olds and took them into the health centre to let them see cases and how to spot warning symptoms in babies and young children. They attended regularly and learned about immunisation. Locally they became known as the mini-doctors, their expertise having equipped them to play a

key role in their community as instruments of change.

Now Malavani has adopted the Child-to-Child programme, an international project that spreads information and suggestions so that school-age children can pass on what they have learned to their younger brothers and sisters. The story of Malavani is enthusiastically told by Professor John Webb, director of the London-based project.

Though the programme was launched in 1979, the International Year of the Child, it has evolved slowly and informally, relying on a network of people in the health field to spread its message throughout the world. Now it is being used in between 60 and 70 countries and in the latest, Zambia, President Kenneth Kaunda opened the seminar to mark its inception.

Professor Webb, who held the James Spence Chair in Child Health at Newcastle University in northern England, until he retired three years ago, said the programme works through a series of activity sheets.

"We have identified 25 different activities that children of around 10 or older can take part in with their younger brothers and

sisters to help improve the health of their families," he said.

For instance, the Polio sheet highlights the importance of immunisation and urges older children to take younger brothers and sisters to the clinic. It suggests they keep lists of those who have been immunised.

It also explains how vaccines need to be stored in a cold temperature and that it is important to tell the health worker if the electricity stops. It shows ways to construct crutches and help disabled children practise walking.

Recent sheets include "Clean safe water," "Playing with babies" and "Keeping a sick child interested." Others are titled "Accidents," "Health scouts," "Looking after eyes," "Our teeth" and "Toys and Games."

President Kaunda pointed out one of the most attractive features of the programme: that it could be implemented without spending foreign exchange or any currency at all — "save the currency of human kindness combined with enlightenment."

He added: "That currency is found in the adults, especially teachers and health workers who

dedicate themselves to teaching children so that children can care for each other."

He pointed out that in Zambia love for younger brothers and sisters by older children was very visible. It was quite common to see a little girl imitating her mother by carrying a doll on her back. "When the little girl gets older," he added, "she is very proud to be able to carry her baby sister or baby brother on her back."

Throughout the developing world, President Kaunda, said some 350 million children remained beyond the reach of even a minimum of essential services in health, nutrition and education. In Africa alone 5 million children would die within the next 12 months.

As in Zambia, the programme has been introduced into many countries through an initial seminar for education and health workers. The emphasis, Professor Webb insists, is on making the process a lot of fun by incorporating songs, drama and puppet shows into the activities.

Another means of communicating the programme has been through the work of Teaching Aids at Low Cost

(TALC), the largest organisation involved in providing teaching aids for Third World countries. The inspiration behind both the formation of TALC and the Child-to-Child programme is Professor David Morley, who heads the Tropical Child Health Unit in the Institute.

Professor Webb said the programme is now reviewing the extent and use of its material and approach to teaching worldwide. Once the programme could identify good projects and assess them in depth it could fulfil a more useful role.

The programme's greatest success to date is in Delhi, where the Education Department of the Municipal Corporation is introducing Child-to-Child programme material and its philosophy into 932 primary and middle schools in Greater Delhi.

He said that a pilot training and teaching project for teachers would be conducted in 14 primary schools and two five-day training workshops had been held for up to 40 teachers. The project was being funded by the Aga Khan Foundation as are other, smaller India-based projects — "People feature."

Trawling for business with mechanical fish

Peter Marsh looks at a group of companies seeking to reduce dependence on the oil industry by developing TV and sonar sensors in hitherto unimagined ways.

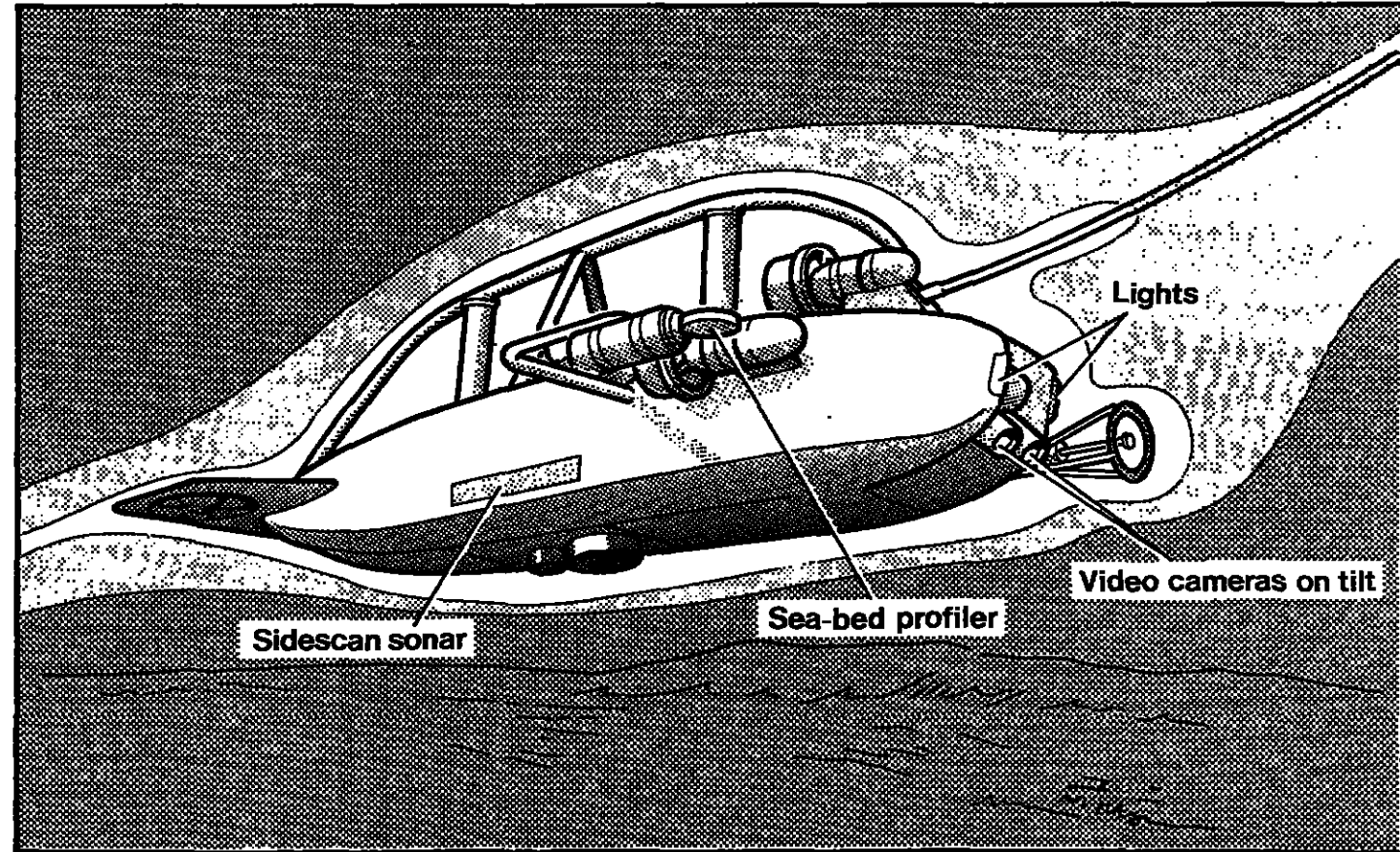
LONDON — A Soviet submarine has run aground off the U.K. coast and locating it is a matter of priority for a team of royal navy technicians. Helping them, if any such incidents occur in the future, may be a large mechanical "fish" which is towed behind a survey ship.

Such a device is under development at RUMIC, a small engineering company in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, in the north of the U.K. It promises to be able to inspect large tracts of ocean quickly and cheaply, by incorporating television and sonar sensor technology, and having the ability to be towed at speed or move slowly under its own power.

The fish will be dragged behind a ship at the relatively high speed of five knots, all the time using sonar equipment to pick up information on nearby objects. If and when the scanners show anything of interest — such as a dark shadow which could indicate a submarine hull — engineers on the ship order the fish to swim away to obtain detailed images of the object using TV cameras.

While its TV cameras are switched on, the machine remains linked to the ship by an "umbilical cord." This acts as a conduit for signals sent between the fish and engineers on board the support vessel.

The ship, however, slows to about half a knot, allowing the mechanical contraption beneath the waves to steer itself under power of its own thrusters. The cord lets the fish roam up to 500 metres either side of the ship.



In this way, the towed system, which requires about £1.3 million (\$1.85 million) for further development, would combine both quick scanning of the oceans using sonar and detailed inspection using TV. Normally, these surveillance methods require separate underwater vessels.

Vista Ventures, a venture-capital organisation in London, has agreed to contribute some of the project's development costs. Other possible sponsors are the U.K. Energy Department's

Offshore Supplies Office and Saipem, the Italian offshore engineering company. The latter thinks the new device would help it in inspection of underwater pipelines.

Assuming the development goes ahead, work on the system may be shared by a group of about 15 companies in the Barrow area, many of which specialise in offshore engineering for the oil industry. As part of moves to diversify away from this sector into other areas of technology, the Barrow concerns are considering

joining forces in an informal consortium.

RUMIC was set up three years ago by a group of engineers headed by Roger Chapman, managing director. The five-person concern initially worked mainly for the oil industry, reflecting Mr. Chapman's own background. Before setting up RUMIC, he had worked in offshore maintenance for Vickers and had started another company, Subsea Surveys, which operated remote-controlled inspection vessels for oil companies.

According to Mr. Chapman, the balance of RUMIC's work has swung away from the oil industry. For example, the company has won a three-year contract with Britain's defence ministry to draw up plans to rescue, using a range of underwater vessels, sailors who have become trapped in submarines on the seabed. While working for Vickers, Mr. Chapman once suffered just such an experience.

RUMIC has worked with British Telecom in projects to lay cable under water. Financial Times

To advertise in this section

Call 667171-6
670141-4
ext. 223

CHINA RESTAURANT
NEXT TO GRINDLAYS BANK
Take away service available
Open daily 11:30 - 3:30
and 6:30 - 11:00
AQABA
Tel: 03-314415

CROWN INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT
packing, shipping, forwarding, international moving, storage, clearing, door-to-door service
Agents all over the world
Tel: 684090, 660852
The 2205 BESINCO JO
Cable: NussBahco
P.O. Box 10947
AMMAN JORDAN

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbeque for lunch and dinner FRIDAY
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

ZORFU GREEK TAVERNA
The First and Only Greek Restaurant in Jordan
TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT
Live Music
ZORBA THE GREEK
LOCATED: JABAL AMMAN, 2ND CIRCLE
OPP. FRENCH LOAF
TEL: 641585 NO COVER CHARGE

CHINESE RESTAURANT TAIWAN TOURISMO
Authentic Chinese food
Friendly service
Convenient location
Also take-away service
Open daily: Noon - 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - midnight
Location: Near 3rd Circle, opposite to Alkhal Hospital
Tel: 641093

慕堂餐廳 MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant
The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman.
Fully Airconditioned
Take away available
Open daily 12:00 - 15:30
18:00 - 23:30
Wadi Sagra Road - near Traffic Bridge
Amman, Jordan
Tel: 661922

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Alhilyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight
Tel: 639968

Japanese upsets 4th-seeded Kohde-Kilsch in NSW Open

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Etsuko Inoue of Japan stunned fourth-seeded West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch Tuesday to move into the third round of the \$150,000 New South Wales Open women's tennis championship at White City.

Inoue, 22, the no. 1 player in Japan, first wrapped up an unfinished first-round match by defeating Ann De Vries of Belgium 7-6, 4-6, 7-5 and then trounced Kohde-Kilsch 6-4, 6-2.

The Japanese player defused Kohde-Kilsch's powerful serve and played steady tennis to wear down her bigger, more powerful opponent.

Inoue is ranked 80th in the world. Inoue said it was the best win of her career.

"I think having to play De Vries first meant I was really well warmed up," she said.

Eleventh-seeded Canadian Carling Bassett, 12th-seeded Jo Durie of Britain and 13th-seeded Australian Dianne Balestrat joined Kohde-Kilsch in bowing out of the 56-draw grass court event on Tuesday.

American Anne Smith downed Bassett 6-4, 6-4 in their first-round match and American Camille Benjamin defeated Durie 7-5, 6-4 in the second round. A virus forced Balestrat to withdraw from her second-round meeting with another American, Elise Burgin.

Second-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States and third-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia were among the second round winners Tuesday in the Virginia Slims series event.

Shriver blitzed Sara Gomer of Britain 6-1, 6-2, while Sukova breezed past American Ann Henricksson 6-1, 6-2.

Fifth-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria, sixth-seeded American Zina Garrison and seventh-seeded Lori McNeill of the United States also advanced to

the last 16.

Despite a lack of grass court experience, Maleeva crushed Julie Richardson of New Zealand 6-1, 6-3, while Garrison was too strong for her compatriot and former Wimbledon quarterfinalist Molly Van Nostrand, winning 6-3, 6-2.

McNeill had to struggle for her 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 triumph over powerful West German Eva Pfaff.

Ninth-seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden beat American Sharon Walsh-Pete 6-1, 6-2, while 10th-seeded Wendy Turnbull of Australia trounced American Terry Holladay 6-0, 6-1.

Ann Hobbs of Britain took three hours to defeat Canadian teenager Helen Kelesi 7-6, 6-7, 6-4 in a first-round match. Both players were given code of conduct violations for uttering obscenities and Kelesi was warned for being coached from the sidelines by her father.

Top-seed Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia is scheduled to play her second-round match against South African Elna Reinach on Wednesday.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Becker wants to team with Navratilova

ADELAIDE (R) — Wimbledon champion Boris Becker is keen on forming one of the most potentially potent mixed doubles partnership in tennis history — alongside Martina Navratilova. Becker, who arrived in Adelaide Tuesday to compete in an exhibition tournament, said he planned to discuss the idea with Navratilova during the Australian Open later this month. Becker has not shown much interest in mixed doubles so far in his short but explosive career. On the other hand his putative partner is one of the sport's great mixed doubles players despite changing partners frequently. Navratilova won the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open titles in 1985 playing alongside Heinz Guenthardt of Switzerland and Australian Paul McNamee.

India headed for cricket win

CUTTACK, India (AP) — India headed for victory in the third and final test against Sri Lanka here after Indian bowlers forced the visitors to follow on. At stumps on the third day, Sri Lanka was 51 for three in its second innings. The Sri Lankans were all out in their first innings just before tea for 191. India was 400 all out in its first innings. The hosts are one up in the three-test series.

S. Korea to host 6-nation boxing

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea will host a six-nation boxing tournament in September involving Thailand, the Soviet Union, East Germany, Italy and the United States, the Korea Amateur Boxing Association said Tuesday. The association said South Korea plans to field two teams in the tournament. No other details were immediately available, but officials said the event is part of preparations for the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

WBC announces super-flyweight bout

MEXICO CITY (R) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) announced that Gilberto Roman of Mexico will defend his super-flyweight title against Antoine Montero of France later this month. The fight, which is tentatively set for Jan. 30, will be held in France. The specific venue has not yet been announced. Roman won the WBC super-flyweight title last March when he defeated Jiro Watanabe of Japan. The Montero fight will be Roman's fifth title defence. The winner is obliged to take on top contender Frank Cadenas of the Philippines, the WBC said. Montero was ranked ninth among WBC bantamweights in December.

Strip-show suggested for Brazil soccer

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A Brazilian soccer league official said he wanted to bolster sagging stadium attendance by promoting strip-tease shows before matches and during the half-time breaks. In a news conference in the northeastern city of Recife on Monday, Fred Oliveira, president of the Pernambuco state soccer league, said that if he received approval from club officials, his plan would be implemented during this year's state league season. "The presence of beautiful women has always been a great argument to attract the masses," Oliveira said. "If that doesn't help, then I see no other solution to professional soccer in Pernambuco."

Giants favoured for Super Bowl

NEW-YORK (AP) — The New York Giants' bandwagon got a bunch of new passengers Monday, as the world of pro football established the team that plays its first championship game in 23 years next Sunday as a prohibitive favourite to win the Super Bowl.

The Giants' 49-3 demolition of San Francisco on Sunday prompted Las Vegas oddsmakers to make the Giants a 7-point favourite over the Washington Redskins in Sunday's NFC title game and a 4-5 favourite to win the Jan. 25 NFL championship game in Pasadena, California.

Cleveland, a 3-point favourite over Denver in the AFC title game, was 9-5 with the Broncos 5-2 and the Redskins 4-1.

The Giants, who last played for a championship in pre-Super Bowl 1963, when they lost to the Bears 14-10 in the NFL title game, will meet the Redskins next Sunday. The Redskins made sure the NFL will have a new champion for the seventh straight year Saturday when they defeated the Bears 27-13 in Chicago.

The AFC title game will match the Cleveland Browns and Denver Broncos at Cleveland Stadium.

Indiana downs Dallas in scoring spree

NEW YORK (AP) — Indiana Pacers coach Jack Ramsay had a simple explanation for his team's National Basketball Association victory over the Dallas Mavericks: perfection.

"On the road, we are usually a little tentative, but tonight we played perfect," Ramsay said following Indiana's 144-135 victory in Dallas.

Others were quick to give the credit to Ramsay.

"Credit coach Ramsay," Dallas star Mark Aguirre said. "Their execution on offense was tremendous. We were getting after it, but we just couldn't stop them like we wanted to do."

Indiana forward Wayne Tisdale backed up Aguirre's assessment.

"We knew we would have to work hard because Dallas is tough at home," Tisdale said. "But we were ready and determined to win."

"They made a lot of runs at us, but we didn't fold and coach Ramsay called some very strategic timeouts. Whenever they made a run, he belted time to stop their momentum and to keep us calm out there. It really worked."

Tisdale and centre Steve Stipanovich scored 27 points each for the Pacers, who committed only five turnovers as they ended Dallas' four-game winning streak.

Aguirre paced Dallas with 28 points, Rolando Blackman had 24 and James Donaldson 23. Donaldson led all rebounders with 15.

In Monday's only other NBA game, Philadelphia defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 108-102.

Charles Barkley handled the offence and Maurice Cheeks took care of the defence as Philadelphia handed the Clippers their 12th straight loss.

"Charles Barkley is a great player with exceptional qualities," Clippers coach Don Chaney said. "Maurice Cheeks is also in Barkley's category and is one of the best point guards in the league."

Barkley scored 38 points, his second straight 30-plus point performance, and pulled down 12 rebounds. Cheeks had a career-high nine steals, two short of the NBA record set in 1976 by Larry Kenon with the San Antonio Spurs.

Michael Cage led the Clippers with 25 points, while Cedric Maxwell added 17.

FOR RENT

Fully-furnished roof-top apartment, near 5th Circle — Abdoun. Two bedrooms, living/dining room, central heating, T.V., stereo, large open terrace. JD 200/month.

Phone: 623150

FOR RENT

LAST DAY FOR REGISTRATION Colloquial Arabic at the British Council

FEE: JD 43.- TIME: morning and afternoon.

الطبي
الثقافي
الرياضي

The British Council

Mecir cruises to second round in NZ tourney

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Top-seed Miroslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia cruised into the second round of the \$200,000 New Zealand Open tennis championship Tuesday with a 6-2, 7-6 win over Australian Peter Doohan.

Mecir, ranked ninth in the world, used his crisp passing shots and court speed to shut Doohan out of the first set. The Australian became more aggressive in the second and, with some clever ground strokes, forced Mecir to a tie-breaker before succumbing.

Mecir's countryman, Milan Strejšek, seeded second, ousted American Kelly Jones 6-4, 7-5.

The two later combined to beat West Germany's Patrick Kuhen and Dominik Utzinger 7-6, 6-2 in the first round of doubles matches.

Third-seed Ramesh Krishnan of India was taken to 7-5 in the first set of his singles clash with 26-year-old American Robert Green before establishing a rhythmic serve and volley game to win the second 6-2.

New Zealand Davis Cup representative Bruce Derlin, a wild-card entrant, caused a major upset when he beat eighth-seeded American Bill Scanlon 6-3, 7-6, taking a tense second-set tiebreaker 8-6.

Ismaili avenges Africa Cup loss

CAIRO (R) — A lone 88th-minute goal gave Ismaili a precious home win Monday night over National in Egypt's Premier League, avenging its exit last October from the African Cup-Winners' Cup at the hands of the Cairo side.

Ismaili, whose African campaign was ended by National on the away-goal rule, matched the guests' poor form in the first half, but pulled his game together after the break to become the more influential side by far.

Fikri Al Saghir's winner, a right-footed drive from the edge of the box, ended National's unbeaten run in the league but left it top of the 12-team table on goal difference over Arab Contractors, also of Cairo.

National and Ismaili last met in the African Cup's semi-finals on Oct. 24. The second-leg of that tie, played in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia, was followed by riots by home fans protesting the result and the arrest of 45 people for damaging property and setting cars ablaze during the rampage.

National went on to win the cup for the third year in a row, beating Gabon's Sogara 3-2 on aggregate.

Ismaili, who lost star striker Mohammed Hazem two months ago in a road accident, are now in seventh place with 13 points behind Cairo's Tarsana on goal difference.

Swiss wins women's giant slalom event

SALZBURG, Austria (AP) — Maria Walliser of Switzerland Tuesday won the second women's World Cup super-giant slalom, which was marred by bad visibility and driving snow after the first group of starters.

Walliser negotiated the course with 40 gates and a vertical drop of 420 metres in 1 minute and 09.71 seconds.

The strength of the Swiss team was once again underscored by the second place of fellow-Swiss Brigitte Oertli.

Starting as 22nd competitor, Oertli braved strong wind and snowfall to finish the race in 1:10.66 minutes.

Third was Mateja Svet of Yugoslavia.

Referring to Oertli's outstanding performance, Walliser said "Brigitte brought me back the joy" over her victory.

Liverpool, Everton bid for big-ticket players

LONDON (R) — Liverpool and Everton revitalised the English soccer transfer market and intensified the fierce battle for the First Division title Tuesday when they made big money transfer bids.

Oxford striker John Aldridge, a lifelong Liverpool fan, was poised to join the champions for close to £1 million (\$1.5 million) while Leeds' midfielder Ian Snodin was left to choose between the Merseyside rivals after Leeds had agreed to a fee of £840,000 (\$1.2 million) with both.

Both clubs are desperate to keep in touch with leader Arsenal who has established a four-point advantage at the top of the First Division.

But Arsenal, unbeaten in 19 matches, is also likely to make a major transfer bid shortly having agreed to sell highly-rated midfielder Stewart Robson to West Ham for £700,000 (\$1.1 million).

Manager George Graham made inquiries for several top strikers earlier in the season and will now

have the funds to strengthen his team for the final stages of the season with Leicester's Alan Smith his most likely target.

Both Liverpool and Everton have money to spend. Everton sold England striker Gary Lineker to Barcelona for £2.75 million (\$4.15 million) last year and Liverpool has agreed to sell Welsh striker Ian Rush to Juventus for £3.2 million (\$4.8 million) at the end of this season.

Aldridge, who has scored 72 goals in 100 appearances for Oxford, is expected to complete his transfer in time to play alongside Rush for Liverpool in its Football Association (FA) Cup third round tie at Luton on Sunday.

Snodin's future is less certain. "I've no idea who I am going to sign for," he said after talking to Everton manager Howard Kendall and Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish. "It's going to be the biggest decision I'll make in my career and I need time to make sure it's the right one."

Mehta-Doughty team leads in Paris-Dakar rally

IN SALAH, Algeria (AP) — Shekhar Mehta and Mike Doughty of Kenya won Monday's fourth stage of the Paris-Dakar rally, increasing their lead in the overall standings.

But the outstanding performance on the long, difficult stage came from Finnish former world rally champion Ari Vatanen with Bernard Giroux in a second team Peugeot.

Starting 41st overall, they overhauled dozens of rivals to end the day in ninth place.

Mehta and Doughty, in a Peugeot 205, covered the day's 492-kilometre special stage with 1 hour 29 minutes and 16 seconds of penalty time. They were 3 minutes 20 seconds ahead of Vatanen and Giroux in the stage time.

In the overall standings, Mehta and Doughty had a lead of 28:50 over Raoul Raymond and Dani Ferret of France in a Range Rover, with former winner Jean Da Silva and Pierre Oligo of France in a Mitsubishi in third place.

Alessandro De Petri of Italy on a Cagiva won Monday's motorcycle stage, but Cyril Neveu of France on a Honda took the lead in the overall motorcycle standings.

Monday's stage crossed a stretch of fast, rocky terrain before slowing down in Algeria's eastern sand sea. More than 480 competitors in cars and trucks and on motorcycles are attempting the difficult course, which ends Jan. 22 in Dakar, Senegal.

Pele refuses to play in more Pele Cup matches

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — International soccer star Pele said Monday he will not play in more Pele Cup soccer tournament matches because he fears he will damage his image as the world's top soccer player.

Pele, 46, whose real name is Edson Arantes Do Nascimento, played before a Brazilian audience Sunday for the first time since 1974 in the veterans tournament for players 34 and older.

The match, Brazil's first in the exhibition games for countries that have won the World Cup at least twice, ended with the host country defeating Italy 3-0.

A crowd of 60,000 packed Sao Paulo's Pacaembu Stadium for the event, wildly cheering each time a Brazil player touched the ball.

But Pele, who led Brazil to victory in three World Cups, was not the star of the Sunday game, and sports commentators said he

had lost some of the speed and agility for which he was known.

"Edson doesn't think playing in other tournament games will be good for his image as the world's best soccer player ever," Eduardo Saboya, spokesman for the games, told the Associated Press.

"He has a certain image to uphold that must be maintained."

Pele had earlier confirmed his participation only in the first Brazil-Italy game, but later said he might reconsider his decision if he felt in good enough form.

Press reports Monday showed a general disappointment that the soccer star neither scored a goal nor showed the spectacular footwork for which he was known.

This is the first year of the tournament of former soccer greats. Participants are Brazil, Italy, West Germany, Uruguay and Argentina. Organisers say the event will be held once every two years.

Former distance runner leaves alcohol rehab

NEW YORK (AP) — Former distance runner Henry Rono, who set four world records within 90 days in 1978, has left two alcoholic rehabilitation centres "and has gone back to drinking," his agent said Monday.

The agent, Tracy Sundlum, president of the Metropolitan Athletics Congress, said Rono voluntarily left a centre in New Jersey a few days after being admitted in late November "because it was too restricted."

Rono was thrown out of another centre in Pennsylvania about 3.5 weeks ago "for

disciplinary reasons," Sundlum said.

Nine years ago, Rono, a native of Kenya, set world records in the 3,000 metres, 3,000-metre steeplechase, 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres.

Next week, Rono is scheduled to appear in court on criminal charges lodged by New Jersey police, who say he conned four banks out of \$1,300. Rono has pleaded not guilty to the four charges.

One charge was reduced to disorderly conduct, but the other three are felony counts.

He is accused of defrauding banks by confusing tellers through a series of rapid-fire transactions. Police say he gave the tellers six or seven \$100 bills to open an account, then asked for change in smaller bills.

Rono now is living with a former running friend in Boston, he said.

The friend "couldn't bear to see Henry on the streets," Sundlum said. "Henry was sinking very rapidly until the friend in Boston took him in."

Sundlum called Rono's failure to cure his drinking problems "terribly disappointing."

INTERNATIONAL, MULTI PRODUCT ORGANISATION REQUIRES

SALESMEN

HAVING A CAR & HOLDING JORDANIAN NATIONALITY IS A NECESSITY. HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVE SCHEMES FOR YOUR BENEFIT.

WE NEED "EAGLES" NOT CHICKENS.

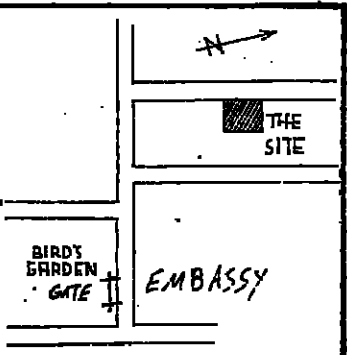
WE'LL GIVE YOU THE WINGS, BUT ONLY IF YOU DESIRE TO FLY.

TO SOAR... TO ACHIEVE!

FOR RENT GROUND FLOOR APT IN SEMEISANI NEAR BIRD'S GARDEN IN ALSSARAYA BUILDING

Ground floor spacious apt. with garden, grand lux finishing, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living, salon, dining room, large kitchen with breakfast corner, separate entrance, Italian marble, mahogany doors, individual central heating, individual water well, telephone, net area 240 sq.m.

Call 642508 8:30 - 11 a.m. 634300 6 - 9 p.m.



Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420
JAGGED EDGE
Additional Party 10:30 a.m.
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155
JUST ONE OF THE GUYS
Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **OPERA** Tel: 675573
HELL CAMP
Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420
ALL THE WAY BOYS
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 622198
THE INVINCIBLE RAMBO
Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4735/45	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3728/33	Canadian dollars
	2.9230/40	West German marks
	2.1730/40	Dutch guilders
	1.6190/200	Swiss francs
	40.05/08	Belgian francs
	6.3675/725	French francs
	130/1341	Italian lire
	158.95/159.05	Japanese yen
	6.7525/625	Swedish crowns
	7.3600/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.2825/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	401.60/402.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities stood mixed in late trading after an indecisive session with moderate volume, dealers said. Shares opened higher after the record performance on Wall Street on Monday but tumbled lower at midsession on a lack of follow-through and renewed worries over current Department of Trade investigations into certain share dealings.

ICI gained a net 11p to 1.079, Hawker 10p to 471 and Blue Circle 13p to 687 while Pilkington lost 2p to 634. Elsewhere among the leaders, BTR, whose £1.16 billion bid for Pilkington has been extended, gained 2p to 273 while Glaxo jumped 35p to 1.084 and Allied Lyons 10p to 335. But Woolworth lost 11p to 699 and GEC 2p to 189. Merchant bank Hill Samuel featured with a gain of 16p to 426 as a foreign buyer built up a stake in the company. Analysts said the buyer was probably Australian stockbroker Ord Minnett which is 50 per cent owned by Westpac Bank, but they said it was too early to say whether the build up was in preparation for a full bid for Hill Samuel. Elsewhere, Ansbacher lost 1/2p to 85 1/2 but Morgan Grenfell gained 4p to 379.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A new stance at unique and progressive places can be excellent for you, even though there can be some confusion on how best to implement these ideas.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have a good pal who can assist you in getting your personal plans. Try a new angle. Be clever.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) State your desires to those who are fond of you and you can soon attain them. Improve your health.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Look to good friends and a clever partner for assistance. Try to be more amusing with those you like.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Know what it is that one in power truly likes and you find you can get along nicely.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) One whose ideas are different to yours can help you with your entertainment activities. Add more charm to your daily life.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Confer with a member of your family about an enterprise you are working on and get good advice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Cooperate more with an associate and outside allies in a plan that can be mutually profitable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Find the best way to gain more abundance from the work you do. Increase your efficiency.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are full of charm and magnetic warmth and can impress others most favorably.

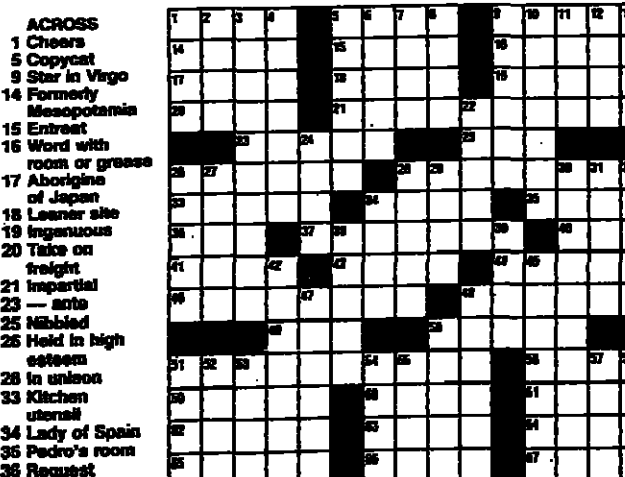
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Do something delightful for those at home and gain greater affection. Make your home more charming.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you need a favor, seek out one who thinks highly of you and you can get it. Dress professionally.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study how to make your property more charming and valuable. Get ideas from an expert in this area.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will do best in professions that are connected with embellishments or entertaining of the public and could make a good deal of money along such lines. One who can charm others easily and will treat everyone equally and be smothered in affection.

THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Flagner



- ACROSS
- 1 Cheers
 - 2 Copycat
 - 3 Star in Virgo
 - 4 Formerly
 - 5 Mesopotamia
 - 6 Entreat
 - 7 Word with moon or grasses
 - 8 Aborigine of Japan
 - 9 Leamer site
 - 10 Ingruous
 - 11 Talks on freight
 - 12 Imperturb
 - 13 — motto
 - 14 Mibled
 - 15 Held in high esteem
 - 16 In union
 - 17 Kitchen utensil
 - 18 Lady of Spain
 - 19 Pedro's room
 - 20 Request
 - 21 Dresser sections
 - 22 Today
 - 23 Caribou
 - 24 Pitcher
 - 25 Shaft
 - 26 At request
 - 27 Golf great
 - 28 Rustled
 - 29 TV system
 - 30 Like many pitchers
 - 31 March date
 - 32 Be of use
 - 33 Heb. month
 - 34 Game for Prince Charles
 - 35 Put the ball in play
 - 36 Amphib
 - 37 Influence
 - 38 Villain's expression
 - 39 Gave the once-over
 - 40 Sicilian resort
- DOWN
- 1 Miffed color
 - 2 Diva's song
 - 3 Metaculously
 - 4 Constrict
 - 5 Affix
 - 6 — (to)
 - 7 (Informal)
 - 8 Actor O'Neil
 - 9 Capital body
 - 10 Mairs and Venus
 - 11 Footnote abbr.
 - 12 Shuffled
 - 13 Overwhelmed
 - 14 Mother of Israel
 - 15 Sad sack's relative
 - 16 Madrid museum
 - 17 Gave a lift
 - 18 Pulled
 - 19 Unique person
 - 20 Used garment
 - 21 Pteryotic
 - 22 Line
 - 23 San Jose team
 - 24 San Jose team
 - 25 Avenel
 - 26 Highlands girl
 - 27 Cahn
 - 28 Tied rider
 - 29 Hub
 - 30 June 8, 1944
 - 31 Verve
 - 32 Bean

Iraq fixes oil prices

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq has adopted a fixed-price system for most of its crude oil contracts, in line with last month's OPEC agreement, as from Jan. 1, an official of its state oil marketing organisation said Monday.

Iraq refused to sign the agreement on the grounds that it restricted it to an unacceptable low level of production, but said it would support the return by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to fixed prices.

The move was one of several reported in the Middle East Monday to implement the OPEC accord, designed to cut production by 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million barrels per day (b/d) in the first half of this year and raise prices to around \$18 a barrel.

Most OPEC producers are fixing prices from Feb. 1, but Iraq is choosing the earlier date for all contracts which stipulated the use of OPEC prices if OPEC agreed on such prices, the official told Reuters by telephone.

Kirkuk oil is set at \$17.60 a barrel and Basra Light at \$17.30, in line with other OPEC prices, he said.

The OPEC agreement has already boosted levels on the spot market by some \$3 a barrel. Britain's main Brent grade for February delivery traded Monday around \$18.20.

An official in Kuwait said his country has terminated two of its customers' contracts with effect from the end of January, because they rejected higher fixed prices.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said the Abu Dhabi department of petroleum had teleaxed foreign partners in its two main producing companies, ADCO and ADMA-OPCO, that fixed prices for oil they lift for their own use would start from Jan. 1.

The partners, who lift some 238,000 b/d, are preparing a formal protest, the Cyprus-based newsletter said. The rationale for the early date appeared to be that the producers did not have regular purchase contracts.

The newsletter also said Saudi Arabia had sent new draft contracts to its major customers to replace deals under which crude oil was sold on a netback basis.

Court rules in favour of Khashoggi company

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A federal magistrate declined to compel Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi's U.S. holding company to disclose financial information.

The Sheraton Corp. asked for the information in the pretrial phase of a lawsuit Monday in U.S. district court against Khashoggi's Triad America Corp.

Sheraton sued Triad on Nov. 25, seeking to block the proposed sale of Triad's Edgington Oil Co. subsidiary in Long Beach, California, to Skyhigh Resources Ltd., a public company based in Vancouver, Canada.

Mr. Khashoggi is chairman and a major stockholder of Skyhigh Resources.

Sheraton, which is seeking payment of a \$10 million debt unconditionally guaranteed by

related to the value of oil products. The new deals will run from February to June.

Saudi Arabia also has apparently informed companies with barter arrangements that it wants to renegotiate the price terms in light of the OPEC agreement, MEES said.

Non-OPEC Oman, which had said it would fix prices if OPEC did so, has also told its buyers to be ready to renegotiate contracts to incorporate fixed prices from Feb. 1, MEES said.

In a separate development, Abu Dhabi announced an increase of \$1.15 per barrel in the price of its crude oil lifted in December. Its main Murban grade rises to \$15.55, compared with the \$17.92 price it must charge by Feb. 1.

Egypt hikes prices

In Cairo, Egypt has raised its crude oil prices by \$1.48 to \$13.5 a barrel until the end of the month, according to an announcement.

"Suez" and "Ras Al Bihar" blend will sell at \$16.60 a barrel, "Baleen" at \$16. "Ras Badran" at \$15.50 and "Ras Ghareb" at \$14.75, according to Mr. Hammad Ayoub, vice chairman of the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation.

Following OPEC's accord late last December, Egypt announced its support for OPEC efforts to increase oil prices where reasonable oil revenues could be secured.

China will not increase oil output this year

Meanwhile, to help OPEC in its efforts to stabilise the world oil market, China will not increase its 1987 oil exports, it was announced here at the weekend.

Mr. Zheng Dunxun, president of the China National Chemicals Import and Export Corporation, said China had always helped OPEC efforts to stabilise oil prices, adding that in 1986 also, it had "greatly reduced" its crude exports.

Mr. Zheng expressed appreciation for the "positive results" achieved at the recent OPEC meeting in Geneva which agreed on production limits and fixed oil prices.

Court rules in favour of Khashoggi company

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A federal magistrate declined to compel Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi's U.S. holding company to disclose financial information.

The Sheraton Corp. asked for the information in the pretrial phase of a lawsuit Monday in U.S. district court against Khashoggi's Triad America Corp.

Sheraton sued Triad on Nov. 25, seeking to block the proposed sale of Triad's Edgington Oil Co. subsidiary in Long Beach, California, to Skyhigh Resources Ltd., a public company based in Vancouver, Canada.

Mr. Khashoggi is chairman and a major stockholder of Skyhigh Resources.

Sheraton, which is seeking payment of a \$10 million debt unconditionally guaranteed by

Triad, asked Triad for information proving that any sizable sale or transfer of its assets would not default its creditors.

Sheraton's attorneys accused Triad of willfully failing to provide required information on its financial condition, security interests given to officers, directors or shareholders and payments related to the Edgington deal.

U.S. magistrate Ronald Boyce declined Monday to impose court sanctions or a contempt order against Triad.

On Dec. 23, Boyce denied a request by Triad and Skyhigh for a court order prohibiting Sheraton from providing information obtained in the course of the lawsuit to U.S. and Canadian agencies investigating arms sales to Iran.

'International fraud is increasing'

SINGAPORE (R) — The fight against swindlers who operate across borders is being lost because police do not have enough money or manpower, international lawyers said here Tuesday.

"While the fraudster is flying around first class on the Concorde, we are trying to put together enough money to make international telephone calls," Mr. Saul Froomkin, attorney general of Bermuda, told a seminar here on international fraud.

The amount of cross-border fraud is rising steadily, fuelled with money from drug syndicates and large criminal gangs in the United States, Japan and Europe, the seminar was told.

And white-collar crime is becoming more difficult to detect

crime tries to maximise earnings by buying legitimate businesses to cloak illegal activities, Mr. Rider said.

"Organised crime is becoming far more sophisticated," he said. "Why take the risk of running drugs when you can get away with commercial crime easily?"

Mr. Rider said the effective frauds tend to be simple. Old ships are scuttled at sea for insurance money and bogus firms fail to deliver goods paid for in another country.

Stock market traders help with insider trading and offshore banks help criminals avoid taxes and exchange controls, he said.

"Some national economies, primarily in the Third World, are coming under such an attack from

organised crime... that their political institutions have been significantly weakened and corrupted," he added.

Mr. Froomkin said poor countries are particularly vulnerable because few have anti-fraud systems in place and many that did exist were riddled with corruption.

"The ways of committing these crimes have become so much more sophisticated but the ways of combating it have not kept pace," said one delegate from Ghana.

"This is a growing multinational problem and the only way we can tackle it is through an international agency of experts," added Mr. Froomkin. "National agencies are understaffed and underfunded."

U.S. bank failures total 138 in 1986

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A post-depression record 138 U.S. banks collapsed during 1986, federal regulators say, with most of the failed institutions in economically troubled oil and farm states.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) considers nearly one of every 10 banks nationwide to be in some kind of financial trouble.

The agency said that as of mid-December, 1,484 banks were on its list of troubled institutions needing special monitoring out of the 14,948 banks whose deposits are insured by the FDIC. The majority of U.S. banks are affiliated with the FDIC.

During 1986, Texas had 26 bank failures, the most of any state, followed by 16 in Oklahoma, 14 in Kansas, 10 in Iowa and nine in Missouri. Texas and Oklahoma are oil-producing states, while Kansas, Iowa and Missouri are agricultural states.

In addition, California and Louisiana had eight failures each; Colorado and Wyoming, seven each; and Nebraska, six.

"Economic performance has

not been favourable for all sectors of the economy," FDIC Chairman L. William Seidman noted in congressional testimony last year.

"The agricultural and energy sectors have been exceptionally weak and are in the midst of a painful adjustment process."

"These adjustments are not confined to the non-financial firms," he said. "The banks that serve these sectors are affected as well."

Mr. Seidman said many banks were reluctant or unable to diversify their lending and thus were more vulnerable to economic woes in oil and farming.

The 1986 failures marked a six-year surge of bank collapses. The 138 failures compared with 120 in 1985; 79 in 1984; 48 in 1983; 42 in 1982; and 10 in 1981.

The figure also was the greatest number of bank failures since the FDIC was created in 1934. During the late years of the Great Depression, from 1934 to 1939, bank failures averaged 67 per year, or half the current rate.

Still, the figure was far below the early years of the depression, when accounts were not insured

and rumours could spark bank runs by people frantic to withdraw their deposits. An average of 2,277 banks failed each year from 1930 to 1933, with an astounding 4,000 failures in 1933 itself.

The FDIC insures deposits up to \$100,000 in participating banks. The FDIC insurance fund now stands at about \$19 billion.

Meanwhile, President Reagan's proposed budget calls for funds designed to make up for cuts imposed by Congress in U.S. financing for the multilateral development banks.

Congress, partly because of deep cuts ordered in domestic programmes last year under new budget-balancing legislation, sliced part of the commitment to the banks made by the Reagan administration in earlier years.

Assistance for the Inter-American Development, Asian, African and World Bank has often become a political issue in the past.

The more conservative members of Congress have opposed the funding for the banks on the grounds that they

sometimes assisted countries and governments opposed to U.S. foreign policy goals.

In its budget for the 1988 financial year, the Reagan administration said it had achieved "significant reforms in the way these institutions operate."

In a supplemental appropriation request of \$1.3 billion for various international affairs programmes, President Reagan proposed using some of this money to reduce large arrears in U.S. payments to the banks.

The funding would include assistance to the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank affiliate that lends essentially interest-free money to help the very poorest countries.

Most of the scaled back spending occurred in the assistance in this area.

In 1986, Congress reduced spending for IDA to \$669.9 million and in the following year it was reduced to \$622.6 million. The administration had agreed to \$750 million a year for three years ending July 30, 1987.

Prominent economist warns of financial crash

BOSTON (AP) — The speculative stock market and feverish corporate buyouts of today had their parallels in the 1920s, says economist John Kenneth Galbraith, who warns that another crash is possible.

"The market at this stage is inherently unstable," Dr. Galbraith wrote in the January issue of the *Atlantic Magazine*.

Any longstanding increase in stock prices, like the one that preceded the crash of 1929 and the increase of the past few years, attracts investors who want to gain from the upward rise in prices and get out before they fall, L. Galbraith wrote. Such speculation drives up stock prices even further.

"And the prices so achieved no longer have any relation to underlying circumstances," such as the strength of the economy, he said.

"What we do know is that speculative episodes never come gently to an end. The wise, though for most the improbable, course is to assume the worst," said Dr. Galbraith, economics adviser to

several presidents and retired Harvard University economics professor.

A second parallel with 1929, Dr. Galbraith said, was "the present commitment to seemingly imaginative, currently lucrative and eventually, disastrous innovation in financial structures."

In the 1920s, he said, investment firms invented new forms of holding companies and trusts. Neither the trusts nor the holding companies conducted a business, they existed only to own other companies. Both incurred debt that required a continual stream of profits to finance.

Dr. Galbraith sees parallels in today's wave of corporate takeovers. Many are leveraged buyouts, in which the acquiring company uses the assets of the sought-after company as collateral to obtain the funds needed for the takeover. These takeovers, like the investment schemes of the late 1920s, create massive amounts of debt.

"This debt has a first claim on

earnings," he wrote, and "a fall in earnings will render the debt burden insupportable."

Dr. Galbraith says today's costly takeovers "are eventually regarded as no less insane than the utility and railroad pyramiding and the investment-trust explosion of the 1920s."

After the crash of 1929, many financiers were humiliated before committees of the U.S. Congress. Some went to jail and a few committed suicide, he said. "The young professionals now engaged in much admired and no less publicised trading, merger takeover, buyback and other deals ... will one day, we can be sadly sure, suffer a broadly similar fate," he said.

The end for those in the present play will come when either recession or a tight money crunch to arrest inflation makes the debt load they have so confidently created no longer tolerable," he wrote.

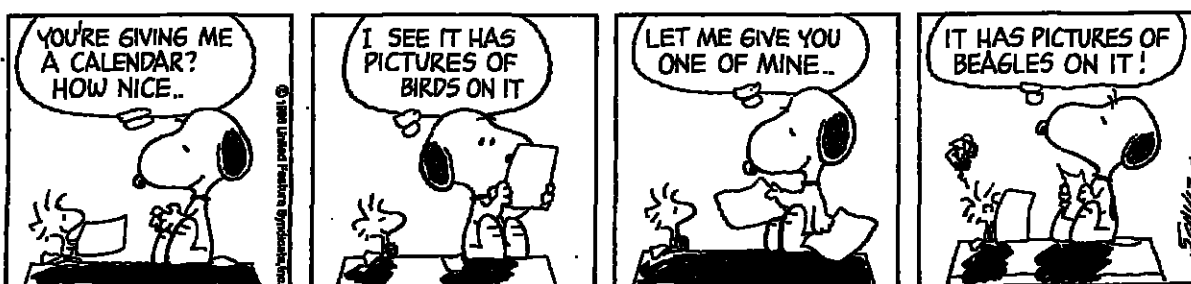
Dr. Galbraith says all the fevered investment today, like that in the pre-depression period, has little to do with improving the

nation's industrial base. "The young men who serve in the great investment houses render no service to investment decisions, product innovation, production, automation or labour relations in the companies whose securities they shuffle ... Mostly their operations absorb savings into an inherently sterile activity."

John K. Galbraith

John K. Galbraith is a prominent economist and Harvard University professor. He is known for his warnings of financial crashes and his analysis of corporate takeovers.

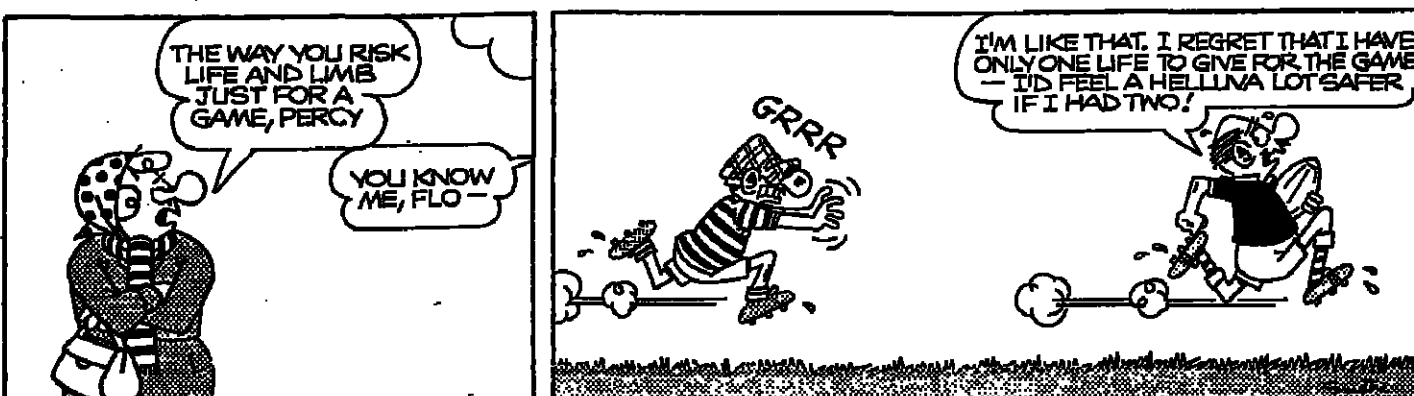
Peanuts



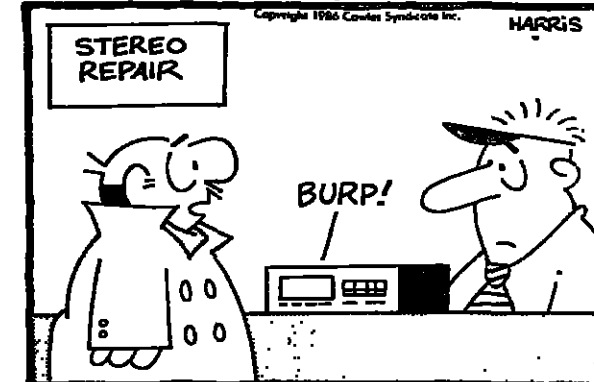
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I know it's not unusual for a cassette deck to chew up a tape, but this is different!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VOYIR

TOINX

KLEECH

ETSAUL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: HSS

Yesterday's Jumbles: MINCE UNCAP SMOKE IMPOSE

Answer: When they wanted to find out about the big bicycle merger, they interviewed the "SPOKESMAN"

Ceasefire negotiator warns Filipinos to guard against U.S. interference

Second round of peace talks begin

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A former ceasefire negotiator warned both government representatives and rebels to guard against interference from the United States in the second round of peace talks which began Tuesday.

Hundreds of farmers cheered and raised clenched fists Tuesday when three negotiators for the rebel National Democratic Front (NDF) arrived at the State Auditing Office for talks with their government counterparts.

The two sides remained far apart on an agenda for the talks, but pledged to work to settle their differences.

"We'll find out how they respond to our written proposals," said rebel negotiator Satur Ocampo. "Hopefully, we can find common ground to begin the substantive negotiations."

Spokeswoman Alice Villadolid said the government panel accepted an appeal by former Senator Jose Diokno for greater flexibility in the talks.

Sen. Diokno was a government member of the panel that negotiated the Nov. 27 ceasefire agreement. He later stepped down because of poor health.

In a letter to both sides, Sen. Diokno urged them to make "food and freedom, jobs and justice" the focus of the discussions, and avoid "dogmatism."

"We must guard against interference by any nation, especially the government of the United States, whose interests oppose those of our people," Sen. Diokno said. "The best defence against any threat is to come together and offer our people something concrete which would directly benefit them."

Before the talks began, government negotiator Teofisto Guingona said he hoped for enough progress to extend the current ceasefire between the rebels and the military beyond the Feb. 8 expiration date.

Meanwhile, a senior official expressed doubt that President Corason Aquino would meet a key demand of Muslim rebels for

ending their separate, 14-year-old Islamic insurgency in the south.

Mrs. Aquino inherited the Communist and Muslim insurgencies from her predecessor, deposed President Ferdinand Marcos. She has pledged to resolve both of them as part of her policy of "national reconciliation."

In a weekend meeting with a government panel in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the leader of the largest Muslim rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), agreed to drop his demand for an independent state and seek autonomy for Muslim areas instead.

But the MNLF chief, Nur Misuari, also asked that portions of the draft constitution providing autonomy for "Muslim Mindanao" be suspended pending further talks on a settlement.

After meeting with the president on the Muslim issue, officials who attended the session said they needed more time to study Mr. Misuari's demand.

Agapio "Butz" Aquino, the president's brother-in-law, said he doubted Mrs. Aquino would suspend the constitutional provisions.

The charter goes before Filipino voters in a ratification plebiscite on Feb. 2.

In Jeddah, Mr. Misuari told reporters Monday that Mrs. Aquino must agree to the suspension "if she wants the peace process to continue." Some 60 per cent of Mindanao's 11 million people are Christian, and the two communities live side by side.

Before the meeting with the Communists, Guingona told reporters the government would present its proposals on land reform and industrialisation in hopes of making enough progress to extend the ceasefire.

He made clear, however, that the government was not prepared to accept changes such as forming a coalition government and reorganising the armed forces.

"The government is not going to bargain much," he said. "We are the government. We consider them Filipinos and if they have a legitimate programme, we are willing to listen."

He dismissed power-sharing as "unfounded and illogical" because the rebels had boycotted last February's fraud-tainted election in which Mrs. Aquino claimed victory.

Reagan reportedly looking for new CIA chief

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House is looking for a replacement for Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey because he is unlikely to be able to return to work after removal of a cancerous brain tumour, an American television network has said.

More than two weeks after the Dec. 18 surgery, Mr. Casey was described as conscious and clear-minded but unable to speak, walk or control the right side of his body, the ABC Network said Monday night.

It quoted unidentified administration sources as saying the White House hoped President Reagan would be able to send a nomination for a new CIA director to the Senate by the time Mr. Reagan makes his annual State of the Union address to Congress later this month.

It said leading candidates included Vernon Walters, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, former Senate Republican leader Howard Baker and former senator and U.S. arms negotiator John Tower.

The White House said it had no comment on the report except to note that spokesman Larry Speakes has repeatedly denied that a replacement was being sought for Mr. Casey.

Deputy Director Robert Gates has been running the CIA in Mr. Casey's absence, but is not considered a leading candidate to replace him, the network reported.

Student protesters fear truth, Peking Daily says

PEKING (R) — The Peking Daily Tuesday hit back at students who burned copies of the newspaper in a campus protest ceremony, accusing them of being naïve and scared of the truth.

Peking University students burned the newspapers Monday to protest against the daily's coverage of nation-wide demonstrations for increased democracy.

In a front-page editorial Tuesday the daily said: "They (the students) cannot stand even a little criticism. They will blush with embarrassment when they realise the naivete of their actions."

The daily said: "... Foreign correspondents went along, some of them even inciting the feelings of the masses on the spot."

Students who have been marching in a dozen Chinese cities for more than a month to call for speedier political reforms frequently complain that the only objective news coverage of their activities comes from foreign sources such as Voice of America radio — itself attacked by China for allegedly twisting the facts.

The students say the daily misrepresents their pro-democracy movement. The state-run Chinese media, while acknowledging belatedly that demonstrations are occurring, constantly minimises their scale, suggests their leaders have treasonable motives, and treats rank and file demonstrators as misguided innocents.

"The truth is not sweet all the time — sometimes it is spicy and hot," remarked the Peking Daily, which described itself as the mouthpiece of nine million inhabitants of the capital city.

The editorial quoted Lenin as saying that the law should let youth talk nonsense, but they should have enough courage to admit their mistakes.

"What kind of warriors for democracy are they when they do not have this kind of courage and mistreat newspapers that speak truth by burning them?" it asked.

There was no official intervention during the burning ceremony, which attracted a crowd of several hundred onlookers.

The People's Daily said Tuesday the student demonstrations were the inevitable outcome of "the weakness of some comrades in fighting the spread of bourgeois liberalism."

The newspaper, official organ of the Communist Party, published a front-page editorial lambasting bourgeois liberalism as a poison in young people's minds and urging party committees at all levels to be on their guard against it.

It quoted remarks by Deng Xiaoping six years ago, at the time the party was clamping down on the short-lived Democracy Wall Movement, as criticising a few comrades who directly or indirectly supported bourgeois liberalism.

Mr. Deng is leading a movement for limited political reform in China, the aim of which is to make the Communist Party more efficient administratively and to allow economic improvement and modernisation to continue.

The party's definition of socialist democracy differs greatly from Western concepts of what democracy means, because the party has declared it will brook no challenge to Socialism in China run by the dictatorship of one party, namely itself.

Hayden: France overreacting to criticism on N. Caledonia

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Foreign Minister Bill Hayden on Tuesday accused France of overreacting to Australian criticism of New Caledonia and said ties with the European country remain strong despite differences on three major issues.

Mr. Hayden was commenting on the French government's decision to indefinitely suspend ministerial visits to Australia which led 12 South Pacific nations to getting the United Nations to classify New Caledonia as a French colony instead of an extension of metropolitan France.

France's largest overseas territory in the South Pacific, New Caledonia has been confronting demands by indigenous Melanesians, called Kanaks, for independence. The Melanesians are a minority.

The majority European settlers, many of French descent, oppose severing links with France, which has ruled the islands since 1853. More than 20 people have died in political violence during the past two years, stemming from the independence demand. The islands, north east of Australia, have a population of 145,000.

Following the U.N. move last month, French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean Bernard Raimond on Dec. 19 informed Australia of the decision to suspend ministerial visits "until further notice."

He said New Caledonia was one of three areas of disagreement between the two nations. The others include French nuclear testing in the South Pacific which Australia opposes and the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, which France refuses to sign.

Greenpeace scientists head for Antarctic to set up base

WELLINGTON (R) — Greenpeace scientists headed for the Antarctic Tuesday in an attempt to demonstrate the fragility of nature and have the frozen continent declared a world park.

"We are quietly optimistic that if we are patient and ice conditions favourable we will succeed this year," Peter Wilkinson, leader of the environmental group's Antarctic Expedition, told Reuters.

Greenpeace attempted the project during the last southern summer but impetuous pack ice barred its ship from reaching land.

This year ice is again thick in the Ross Sea area where the expedition, which was expected to leave from the south New Zealand port of Lyttelton, plans to make land.

The group wants to build a base camp and leave four people throughout the seven-month sunless winter to carry out scientific research into fish

populations, the winter habits of krill and body heat loss.

By undertaking research and establishing a year-round camp, Greenpeace aims to meet the requirements placed on nations for consultative membership of the Antarctic treaty.

It wants to focus attention on the fragility of the Antarctic in a bid to have the area declared a world park.

Wilkinson said it will take 10 to 11 days for the 58-metre converted ocean-going tug Greenpeace and 35 crew to reach Ross Island.

Relations between the expedition and New Zealand and the United States bases at Scott Base and McMurdo Sound are expected to improve this year, Wilkinson said, after discussions with officials at both groups in Christchurch.

"We had an amicable meeting today. Relationships will be cordial and we don't expect any major problems," he said.

India buys U.S. engines for prototype aircraft

NEW DELHI (R) — India has signed a contract with the U.S. General Electric company for 11 F-404 jet engines to power the prototypes of the country's first locally-made fighter plane, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Tuesday.

The news agency said the engines would be fitted to six prototypes of the aircraft, expected to test-fly by 1990. The

other five engines would be used as spares.

PTI quoted sources in the Defence Research Development Organisation in Bangalore where the aircraft is being built. It said the contract was signed recently but gave no details of cost and delivery dates.

The sale was discussed when U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger visited in October.

Salvadoran guerrillas announce new offensive

OSICALA, El Salvador (AP) — Leftist rebels have announced a new military offensive following fierce combat at a military position in war-plagued Morazan province.

Army Col. Mauricio Vargas, gathering details on the seven-hour attack that ended at dawn Monday, said four soldiers and two civilians were killed and

nine troops were injured. He said 22 guerrillas died.

The rebels' clandestine Radio Venceremos said five soldiers were killed and 16 wounded. It said two guerrillas suffered slight injuries. There was no way to independently verify either claim.

Col. Vargas, assessing the damage, described the guerrillas as "murderers" and "Marxists."

Dallas airport gunman frees hostage unharmed

DALLAS (R) — A 10-year-old boy seized at gunpoint from his father in an airport ticket queue line by a man demanding to be flown to Egypt was freed unharmed Tuesday after being held for eight hours.

An airport spokesman said the gunman was arrested after he surrendered the handgun he had used to hold police at bay after seizing Michael Caruso in the Delta Airlines terminal.

"The child is safe, the gunman is

in custody," the spokesman said.

Long negotiations with the gunman, identified as an Egyptian who threatened to kill the boy unless he was flown to Egypt, ended when the man surrendered his gun, apparently believing he would not be arrested.

The spokesman said the man, who seemed to be in his early or mid-30s, had identified himself as Solan Abou-Kassem but the authorities had found no identification on him that would confirm the name.

Bokassa accused of killing woman to stop magic power

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP) — A witness in the trial of former Emperor Jean Bedel Bokassa says the former Central African leader had a woman put to death because he feared her magic powers.

Pauline Lingoupou testified Monday that her mother was put to death because her magic powers were so strong she could cause the "miraculous escape" of her son Gen. Martin Lingoupou. The officer was sentenced in 1974 to a 10-year prison term for plotting a coup against Bokassa.

Pauline Lingoupou said her mother was known as a "monkey-woman" because she had four breasts and was believed by some to have magic powers. Bokassa had her arrested and executed because of his fear of these magic powers, she said.

Bokassa, responding to a question from Judge Edouard Franck, said he knew nothing about the woman's alleged magic powers and would have had no reason to put her to death.

"I never saw the breasts of Lingoupou's mother," he said. "I don't know why she was arrested."

"Each time you had someone arrested, that person's relatives were arrested too. Why is that?" the judge asked. "The cases are rather numerous, the brothers, the cousins, the sisters. What do you think of that?"

Bokassa replied: "Eighty per cent of those people arrested during my administration were arrested by overzealous people" trying to protect the former self-proclaimed emperor.

Bokassa has been indicted on

charges ranging from multiple murder and cannibalism to embezzlement of hundreds of millions of dollars in state funds. He was ousted in a 1979 coup and sentenced to death in absentia.

He returned to the Central African Republic last month from exile in France. Under his nation's law, he must be tried again.

Bokassa maintained, as he was throughout the trial, that he never ordered the execution of anyone and that he never intervened in legal proceedings.

Prosecutor Gabriel Mbodou told the court that the Lingoupou case was an example of how Bokassa ruthlessly hunted down his enemies.

"(Gen.) Lingoupou had done wrong. Was it necessary to hunt down his family, his mother, and throw them in prison?" Mr. Mbodou said.

In earlier testimony Monday, witnesses told of the arrest and execution of student Pierre-Emercy Mbai, who had written a letter to Bokassa criticising the government. Shortly later, witnesses said Mbai was arrested was never seen again.

The prosecutor said Mbai was killed because he had created an opposition political party. "The accused found the best way to deal with this young man, to physically eliminate him," Mr. Mbodou said.

Defence lawyer Francois Gibault protested that the testimony was out of order because Bokassa is not charged with Mbai's murder.

Judge Franck then moved on to cases included under the original 14-count indictment.

Colombo stops aluminium supply to north

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka tightened its economic blockade on Tamil separatists by stopping supplies of aluminium to the three-year separatist war that has killed about 4,500 people.

The LTTE is preparing to licence vehicles, issue driving licences, deploy traffic policemen, set up a postal service and operate a public transport system.

In its retail refinery move, the government cut off the supply of petrol and other oil products to Jaffna last Friday.

The government spokesman said spoons, forks, knives and other kitchen utensils with an aluminium content, as well as garden tools, were included in the ban.

The LTTE, the most powerful of the five groups fighting for an

independent Tamil homeland, controls most of the peninsula. It has been in the forefront of the three-year separatist war that has killed about 4,500 people.

The LTTE is preparing to licence vehicles, issue driving licences, deploy traffic policemen, set up a postal service and operate a public transport system.

In its retail refinery move, the government cut off the supply of petrol and other oil products to Jaffna last Friday.

The government spokesman said spoons, forks, knives and other kitchen utensils with an aluminium content, as well as garden tools, were included in the ban.

The LTTE, the most powerful of the five groups fighting for an

he said nothing firm had been decided. "But if the LTTE goes ahead with its creeping declaration of independence, the government would be forced to counter with a last extreme measure, which is to cut off the food supply."

National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudali said in a television interview Monday night that civilians affected by the fuel embargo could carry out a peaceful protest against the LTTE.

The Indian High Commissioner to Colombo, Jyotindra Nath Didi, told Reuters he met President Junius Jayewardene Monday and expressed concern over the effects of the fuel embargo on civilians.

1986 'was bad year' for press freedom

NEW YORK (AP) — The year just past was a bad year for press freedom, with the number of journalists arrested, expelled and harassed hitting five-year highs, Freedom House has reported.

Nineteen journalists were killed around the world — down from 1985, when 31 were killed. 16 in the Philippines alone, the organisation reported.

Freedom House, which describes itself as a non-partisan organisation that monitors political and civil rights around the world, found that 178 journalists were arrested in 1986, up from 109 in 1985.

Forty journalists were expelled from countries in 1986, more than the combined totals of 1984 and 1985, when 22 and nine were expelled, respectively. Thirteen journalists disappeared or were kidnapped, matching 1985's total.

The group reported that there were at least 214 cases of harassment of journalists — more than the previous four years combined. In 1985, for example, 76 journalists were harassed, according to Freedom House's accounting.

Those incidents of harassment included 39 newspapers and radio stations banned; 37 journalists charged, but not jailed; 25 journalists beaten or clubbed; 25 death threats and other threats; 15 refused entry to countries; six media plants razed or equipment impounded; seven publications taken over; four journalists shot, one set afire.

Mexico had the most journalists killed, four, followed by Colombia, Chile, the Philippines and South Africa, two apiece, and one each in Brazil, Canada, Lebanon, Nigeria, South Korea, the United States and Yemen.

President and former party chief Truong Chinh, 79, Premier Phan Van Dong, 80, and 75-year-old Le Duc Tho, top defender of the old guard's Marxist "purity," quit the politburo because of age and failing health, Hanoi said last month.

Diplomats said they were surprised at the delay and added they did not buy Hanoi's official reasoning that such important changes needed legislative ratification.

The organisation chastised both the United States and the Soviet Union. The Soviets showed signs of more openness, but then regressed when they tried to withhold news of the Chernobyl disaster and arrested American journalist Nicholas Daniloff, the group said.

In the United States, President Ronald Reagan's administration was revealed as having discussed a disinformation campaign against Libya, and also barred some foreign journalists from entering the country. But Freedom House also criticised some members of the American press for lacking responsibility.

The organisation highlighted problems or new restrictions in South Africa, Nicaragua, Singapore and Malaysia, but noted significant gains in the Philippines and Haiti and "discussion of press diversity and criticism" in China.

Vietnam 'plagued' by power struggle

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam is in real political trouble because old guard hardliners refuse to make way for reformists demanding urgent economic and party changes, Thai-based Western diplomats said Tuesday.

Prospects for improvement in its massively troubled economy, already dim, will be even more remote until the power struggle is settled, the envoys said.

The ruling Communist Party promoted reformists and retired or dismissed a slew of veterans from its ranks at a national congress last month.

Reformist Nguyen Van Linh took over as party chief, calling for drastic staff and policy changes to end chronic inflation, shortages of food and goods and a crisis of confidence in government among Vietnam's 60 million people.

But the new reformist vanguard deferred stripping party cast-offs from cabinet and state posts, and probably will not until a newly-elected assembly meets next June, envoys said.

Until then, Hanoi will have a president, premier and several cabinet ministers officially out of the ruling party hierarchy.

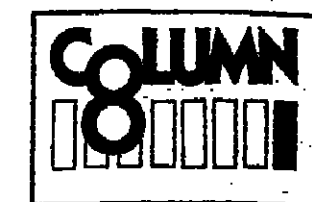
The reformist faction is headed by Mr. Linh, 71, Vice-Premier Vo Chi Cong, 73, and Planning Minister Vo Van Kiet, 64, backers of popular economic reforms offering material incentives that marginally bettered farm and industry output.

They have led a year-long campaign criticising the party and government for waste, economic bungling, and corruption, and have said old, ineffective leaders would have to quit.

One European diplomat said Hanoi held its party congress before fixing the entire national leadership slate. "That is unusual for a Communist Party and it wouldn't have happened if there was not a stand-off," he said.

Diplomats here said they were not convinced that Mr. Linh and the reformists, despite past moderate successes, have the vision and dynamism to cure triple-digit inflation, curb a booming population and provide adequate goods and food.

The reformists' prospects of success will be further muddled by continued compromise, power-broking with the entrenched old guard, diplomats said.



5,500-year-old statue found in Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — A stone statue of a turbaned man, estimated to be at least 5,500 years old, has been discovered during an archaeological dig in the island state of Bahrain. It was reported Tuesday. The 10-centimetre statue was found inside a pot hidden in a burial mound being excavated by a team of Bahraini archaeologists, according to officials at Bahrain's Archaeological Directorate. The burial mound, one of about 170,000 on the island, is estimated to date from the Hellenistic period, about 3,500 B.C.

Reagan explains trillion dollar budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — What's a trillion? The budget that President Ronald Reagan proposed to Congress on Monday is expressed in news stories as the nation's first trillion-dollar budget. Actually, written out, it's a \$1,024,000,000,000 budget. A trillion is a thousand billion or a million million. Since the moon is 250,000 miles away, it would take two million round trips to complete a trillion miles. A trillion would represent 5,376 round trips to the sun. If that's hard to picture in dollars, let President Reagan explain it. In a speech to Congress on Feb. 18, 1981, he said it would take a stack of thousand-dollar bills piled 109 kilometres high to equal \$1 trillion. A trillion is enough to give \$250 to every man, woman and child in the world. It represents nearly a quarter of the gross national product — the value of all goods and services produced in the United States in a year.

Female goat becomes male

ABU DHABI (Petra) — A female goat has become a male goat without undergoing any surgical operation, the Abu Dhabi based Arabic daily Al Itihad said on Monday. The paper said that the she-goat has delivered many twins for many years, but suddenly stopped delivery a year ago. The goat owner, a citizen of the Emirate of Ras Al Khaima told the newspaper that he has noted physiological changes on the goat. The goat's female organs have started to dwindle, and it has gradually changed into a he-goat with two growing horns and male organs and started attacking female goats.

Singer makes good progress after surgery

SYDNEY (R) — British rock star Elton John needed pencil and paper to communicate, but was declared in satisfactory condition after coming out of exploratory throat surgery. He would not sing for several months, a hospital spokesman said. He said the results of a biopsy on tissue taken from the singer's throat would not be known for at least five days but the surgeon who performed the operation was optimistic that full-scale surgery might not be necessary. The spokesman added that the 40-year-old millionaire composer-singer had recovered quickly from the anaesthetic and would probably leave the hospital at the end of the week.

Prisoners' mutiny in Greek jail ends

ATHENS (R) — A mutiny in a high security jail on the Greek island of Corfu has ended when 10 prisoners returned to their cells, officials said. They were the last of 60 prisoners, who mutinied, demanding better living conditions. All have now returned to their cells.

Roman burial ground found in Italy

GORIZIA, Italy (AP) — Archaeologists have discovered a graveyard in northern Italy from the late Roman period between the third and the fourth centuries, the Italian News Agency ANSA reported. Graves were found in a field near Gorizia, north east of Venice, during work to clear away the many rocks dumped there over the centuries by farmers. Archaeologists said the pile of accumulated stones had protected the tombstones, ANSA reported. Seven grave markers have been found to date, and their symmetrical arrangement has led researchers to believe they are part of a much larger graveyard, the report said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIE
© 1986 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

DEAR MR. GOREN

Q—I enjoyed the article on the bid out of turn. Please tell me what would be the ruling had there been a pass out of turn, rather than a bid. — Mrs. W.E.M., Virginia Beach, Va.

A—That depends on several factors. First, unless an opponent accepts or condones the pass, the call is cancelled and the bidding reverts to the player whose turn it was. If the pass out of rotation occurred before any player has bid, or when it was the turn of the bidder to bid, the offender's right to bid, the offender must pass when next it is his or her turn to bid. There is no other penalty.

If the pass out of turn occurred after any player has bid and when it was the turn of the offender's partner to call, the penalties are more serious. The offender must pass throughout the rest of the auction; the offender's partner may make any sufficient bid or pass, but is not allowed to double or redouble at that turn. Should the offender's partner pass and subsequently have to make the opening lead, lead penalties apply. Declarer may either require or prohibit the lead of a specified suit, and this restriction continues for as long as the offender's partner holds the lead.

Q—We were defending a contract of four hearts and had collected the book. With four tricks left to play, declarer had left

three trumps and a winning card. He said: "You make the high trump. Down one."

When we all faced our cards, it turned out the outstanding trump was not high, and declarer could have made his contract by drawing the trump. He demanded we give him the contract. What's the rule? — J.F., Chicago, Ill.

A—Faulty claims and concessions cause more of a problem than any other ruling I know. The Laws state that once a player has made a claim or concession, he may not make any play that is inconsistent with that statement. It does add that a player cannot concede a trick which he could not possibly lose.

However, the latter is not the case in the situation you submit. Here, declarer had forgotten which trump was outstanding. Therefore, it is quite possible he would have led a low trump rather than his high trump, since he thought he had to concede a trick no matter which card he elected to play. Under the circumstances, the ruling must be that he went down one.

There is a lesson to be learned from this. If there is a card outstanding which you think is a winner, play the highest card you can afford when conceding the trick. You might find you have forgotten which card is outstanding, and the rest of the tricks are yours for the taking.